

DOMESTIC MANAGEMENT:

OR,

HINTS ON THE TRAINING AND TREATMENT

OF

CHILDREN AND SERVANTS.

BY

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PREFACE.

THE following work, designed to guide the mother and mistress in her twofold duties, the Authoress believes is not uncalled for.

Although the books already published on education and domestic management are both numerous and excellent, yet it has been thought they are in general too voluminous to be of use to the mother, who, in the midst of pressing family cares, has seldom time or energy to spare for their perusal.

The Authoress has therefore deemed that something shorter, simpler, and more concise was required, and to meet this want the following pages have been written. While brevity has been studied, the aim has been to make the work as

complete as possible, so as to form a handy, yet trustworthy, manual for the mother and mistress, useful in the daily duties of domestic life.

In pursuance of her plan, no particular theory or system has been insisted on, for what might be suitable in one set of circumstances might be quite out of place in another. The Authoress has chosen rather to adduce general principles applicable to all cases. The hints thrown out are gathered from long experience and careful observation, and it is hoped will prove useful.

The Authoress has only further to add, that for the information contained in the chapter which treats of the Legal Relations between Mistress and Servant, she is chiefly indebted to Professor Lorimer's "Hand-book of the Law of Scotland."

SEAFIELD HOUSE,
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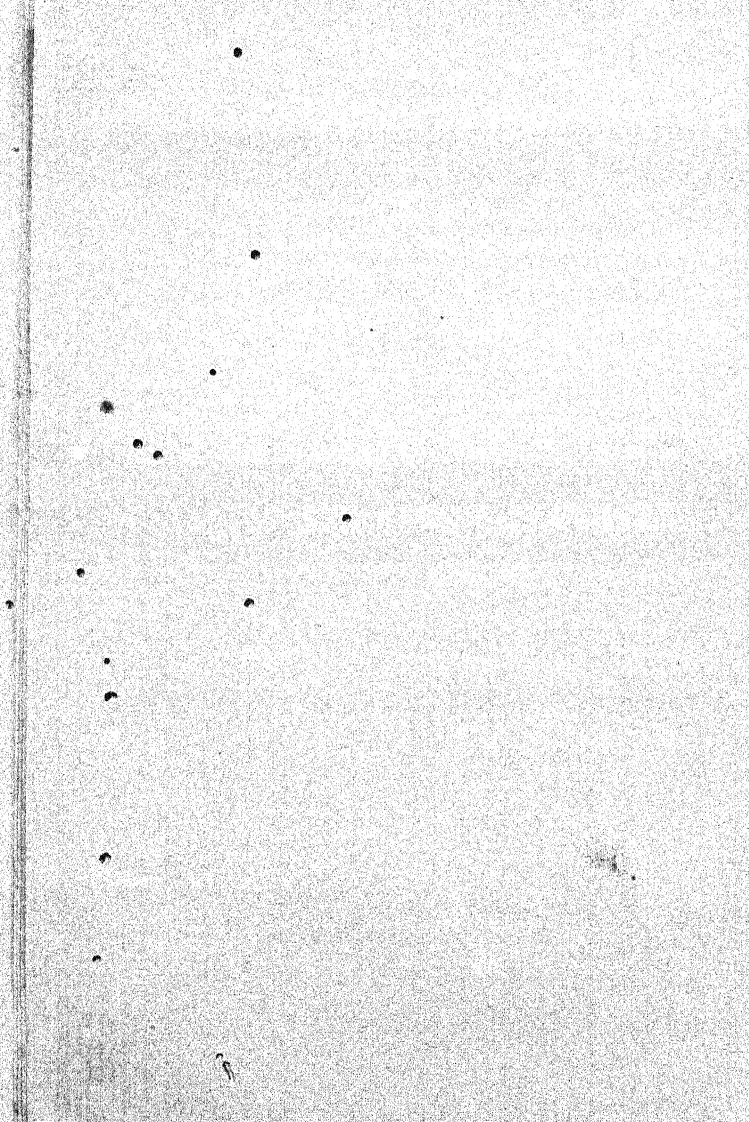
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CHAPTER I.

EARLY INFANCY.

Infant Mortality—Ignorance and Inexperience of Mothers—Pure Air—Warmth—Dryness—The Bath—Clothing of Infants—Food: Regularity Necessary—Health and General Habits of the Mother Important—Medical Aid—Weaning—Choice of a Nurse-Maid—Exercise—Dentition.

THE rearing and training of children are duties so important, that any effort to assist in their performance requires no apology. Numerous and excellent as are the books that have been written on the subject, it is far from being exhausted. The field is wide enough for many yet to cultivate without interfering in any way with the work of preceding labourers; and it may be that an unpretending volume like this may fill a niche into which one more pretentious would not fit. A few hints wisely thrown out may convey to the mother lessons more available for her guidance

than long pages of learned disquisition. With these preliminary remarks, we commence our subject.

Without invading the domain of the doctor or the nurse, we are naturally led to a few remarks on the management of early infancy. The importance of this is evident when we reflect that the future condition of the child depends in a great measure on the manner in which it is treated at this stage. If carefully tended and rationally treated during the first twelve months of its life, the probability is, other things being favourable, that health and strength may be its portion in after years; but with careless nursing, or treatment that ignores or sets at defiance all the laws of health, what can be expected but early death, or, what is probably worse, prolonged suffering? That the fearful mortality which prevails among the young is owing mainly to neglect or mismanagement in some shape or other is, we believe, universally allowed. In some poor and miserable localities, this rate is as high as fifty per cent.; and in others, where immorality is still more conspicuous than poverty, it is said that not six per

cent. of a certain class, if so many, reach their third year. In favourable circumstances and healthy neighbourhoods, again, we see whole families brought up to maturity, the early deaths being rare and exceptional cases. But that, even in any circumstance, infant mortality should be great, we cannot wonder when we consider the ignorance and inexperience of many on whom the care of these tender beings devolves. Many a mother, even in the more favoured circles of society, on entering upon her new position, knows but little of the duties it entails upon her, and is therefore but ill qualified for their performance. Her knowledge of babyhood is, in many instances, limited to the fact of having occasionally looked upon one—of having admired its beauty and wondered at its tiny form—of having held it for a few seconds to feel its weight, speedily returning it to its nurse, as if afraid to trust herself with a thing so fair and fragile. Perhaps her knowledge may not even extend so far: she may, perchance, never have had an infant in her arms till she pressed her own darling to her breast, and kissed its soft and

silken cheek. Who can tell the mingled feelings that crowd into the mind of such a mother when left alone with her precious charge? Happiness, strangely mixed up with sorrow and anxiety, when she thinks of her duty, and how unfit she is to discharge it; not the duty of moral training alone—that lies far off in the distance—but the duty near at hand, of attending to its pressing physical wants. We doubt not the heart of many a young mother nearly sinks within her at this stage, and not unfrequently she relieves her burdened spirit by a thorough good cry ere she can rouse herself to her urgent duties. And here it may be remarked that these will be rendered comparatively easy if she have guided and trained herself so as to have attained to skill and neatness in manual operations of any kind whatever. To use one's head is very good, but to use one's hands is also necessary. To do so well is not so very easy an acquirement as may be supposed. Many seem to think intellectual education the only thing worth pursuing; that of the *hand* they imagine beneath their notice, or look upon it as a thing that will come without any trouble. And

so it does to some, quite naturally, but not to all. Most people require practice and experience, otherwise every manual work they attempt is executed in an awkward and bungling manner, unpleasing to the eye and unsatisfactory in the result. But even without any particular aptitude, those who think that the wise head should guide the skilful hand, and who act according to this principle, may easily attain to a thorough use of their hands, so that everything they do will be done gracefully and well. Such a one will soon learn to handle her baby with as much ease as she would her paintings or her needle. And let it not be imagined that this is a small thing; far from it. The infant suffers more than we can conceive by unskilful handling, and the cries by which he makes known this suffering have often forced the anxious mother to resign the coveted duty to other hands. And doubtless this is a great trial to one anxious to perform personally her pleasing duties, instead of committing them to the hands of hirelings.

While with regard to early infancy the mother's first care is to look to the physical comfort of her

helpless charge, in doing so the benefit does not stop there, for it is an indirect mode of promoting its moral and spiritual wellbeing.

We all know how even an adult is affected by outward circumstances—how a fit of toothache, an attack of indigestion, or even an hour's delay of his accustomed meal, will so irritate his temper, and for a time change his whole nature, as to transform a delightful companion into a dreaded tyrant. And if one whose reason is matured, and who is therefore in a position to exercise patience and self-control, be so unfavourably affected by physical discomforts, what are we to expect from the infant whose reason is yet undeveloped, and who knows no law but that of instinct? From the neglected infant, indeed, we can expect nothing but the peevish child, and from the peevish child nothing but the irritable or passionate man.

Since so much depends on physical comfort, see that the little stranger have its every want faithfully supplied. Let the air it breathes be pure and uncontaminated. The delicate organism of the infant cannot stand any strong perfume. We have heard of one a fortnight old dying in conse-

quence of the strong odour exhaled from an embrocation used for rheumatism by its father in an adjoining apartment.

Besides purity of air, warmth must not be forgotten, for the babe cannot endure extremes either of heat or cold. In addition to warmth, care should be taken to keep children dry and comfortable. If this be neglected, painful excoriations will be the result. To prevent these, let the parts most likely to be affected be frequently washed with tepid water, carefully dried with a soft cloth, and dusted with violet powder. To expose infants to suffering, which can be so easily prevented, is altogether inexcusable.

And last, though not least, stated baths must be attended to with scrupulous exactness. The morning ablution, and the subsequent dressing, are important events in the daily life of the infant. It is well, then, before commencing these operations, to have everything at hand that is likely to be required. In ordinary household matters, such as the making of a pudding or the arrangement of a table, the want of systematic preparation may cause trouble and delay; but here the evil ends.

Not so with the operation in question, for forgetfulness in this may have serious, and even fatal consequences. The bath must be placed near the fire, soap and powder being at hand. The towel, which should be of a soft fabric, may be hung on a screen or towel-horse, along with the various articles of clothing required. This will serve the double purpose of airing the things and protecting the child from cold draughts. The water may be at first of a pleasant warmth, so that the child may enjoy it. By degrees the temperature may be lowered. In a short time cold water may be used, which, if the child be strong and healthy, and the weather mild, will be found equally pleasant, as it is decidedly more healthful and bracing. Should there, however, be any delicacy of constitution, any feebleness in the vital powers, so that a reaction does not speedily take place, it will be the wiser plan to continue the use of tepid water. And it need scarcely be added, the operation should be performed with all possible gentleness. Rough handling is generally the cause of those distressing cries which so often accompany seasons of ablution—cries which are not only dis-

trressing, but annoying, since they can be so easily prevented. The bath, if properly attended to, instead of giving pain to the child, will be to it a positive pleasure; and since its use in various forms is universally allowed to be eminently conducive to health, it is well to train the child to a love for it, so that in after years its uses may be continued from inclination as well as from duty.

Some parents are unwise enough to make the bath a punishment for misconduct; others use it without reference to the health or feelings of their children, causing the timid child to be hurried, in spite of struggles and entreaties, through the dreaded ordeal; and exposing another—of nervous temperament it may be—to the shock of a shower-bath ere fully roused from morning slumbers. From such a procedure, what can issue but a life-long shrinking from that which, by gentler and wiser treatment, would have been esteemed a pleasant as well as a healthful recreation? See that you avoid these evils, and try to form good habits of every kind in your children. Habit has been called a second nature. If the habit of cleanliness

be formed in infancy, it is one step in the right direction; for cleanliness is not only favourable to health, but to morality. Physical impurity we can hardly separate from moral defilement.

Morning ablutions being over, let your child be dressed with tenderness and care. Let a regard to health and comfort guide you in this, and do not be swayed by customs and fashions if they be subversive of these ends. Let that indispensable part of baby attire, the binder, be put on moderately firm, no tighter than necessity demands, and do not allow a pin to be used in fastening it. If a coarse needle, ready threaded, be at hand, a few seconds will suffice to accomplish the operation. You will thus have the satisfaction of knowing that your child can breathe with comfort, which he can scarcely do if swathed like an Egyptian mummy. That his cries (for the best of children will sometimes cry) are not caused by the pricking of that dangerous little implement, the pin, will also be a comfort to you. Without entering into further details as to dress, we would simply remark, that whatever be the style which taste may dictate, the chest and arms should invariably be

covered. Whatever delight the admiring mother may take in showing off the beauties of her little one, she will surely deny herself the pleasure, as one by far too costly, seeing it can only be purchased by risking the health of a life-time; for physicians generally agree in saying that insufficient clothing in infancy and childhood is a fruitful source of those pulmonary complaints which are so common in our variable climate.

Of the food of infancy it is unnecessary to speak: here there is little variety. In addition to the natural source of nourishment, a little farinaceous food—arrowroot, rusk, or even panado—will generally be found necessary. Let it be given at stated times. If you would save yourself untold anxiety and fatigue, regularity must reign, not only in this, but in everything relative to the management of infancy. Some infants there are, indeed, so restless, and so capricious in their restlessness, that you cannot calculate on an hour's sleep or a moment's quietness with them,—every plan is equally ineffectual, nothing will bring them into anything like regularity. But, happily, such infants are comparatively rare. In general

the healthy child, if properly managed and "timed," can be reckoned upon as to its sleeping and waking—we may even say, its laughing and crying. This gives a great advantage to the mother, and enables her to bring up her child with little or no trouble. She who, on the contrary, manages it without any regard to time or order, prepares for herself trials without number—days of toil and nights of watchfulness.

Here it may be remarked that, since the child depends mainly, if not solely, for its nourishment on the mother, she cannot at this time be too careful as to her food and general habits. On her welfare depends that of her infant; when her health is sound and vigorous, he thrives and grows apace; when she languishes, he also declines. If she do not take suitable nourishment for herself, she cannot expect to have it for him; if, on the other hand, she pamper her appetite at the cost of her health, she also injures him, and causes him to suffer. Not only must she attend to her health, her spirit and temper she must also carefully watch. If she give way to anger and impatience, if she suffer herself to be irritated by the trifling

annoyances of domestic life, or unduly depressed by the sorrows to which all are subject, the evil will not end with herself, but extend to the helpless being so entirely dependent upon her. For his sake, then, if not for her own, let the mother set a watch over her spirit, and maintain, as far as possible, a cheerful, quiet, and serene temper. Excitement of all kinds should be shunned, and late and irregular hours avoided; while fatigue and violent exertion are hurtful, gentle and moderate exercise will be found highly beneficial, as will be also the quiet duties of domestic life. The food while nursing, according to the opinions of judicious medical men, should not greatly differ from that which is taken at other times. It may be slightly more nutritious, and partaken of more frequently. Stimulating drinks are to be avoided; fermented liquors, such as porter and ale, are not recommended, and are admissible only when there are symptoms of failing strength on the part of the nurse. The following bill of fare we recommend, and fancy that by its adoption even an indifferent nurse would become a good one:—Well-boiled porridge and new milk at seven in the morning;

breakfast at nine, consisting of bread and butter, egg or chop, according to taste, with a large allowance of tea, not too strong; at twelve, soup made either of beef, mutton, or chicken, thickened with rice or any other farinaceous substance; dinner not later than four, consisting of soup, followed by a moderate allowance of animal food, boiled or roasted, according to taste, with vegetables in moderation,—a light pudding will form a good addition; tea, a few hours after dinner; and, lastly, supper, consisting of gruel, or any farinaceous food that may be fancied, cooked with milk.

It is well for the mother, while suckling the child, to take it frequently from the breast for a minute or so. This will give time for the stomach to distend uniformly, and lessen the puking; thus, by keeping the child comparatively dry, it will prevent chafing. When the child begins to feel hungry, he will become restless and uneasy, and give utterance to low, eager sounds, the meaning of which the mother will soon learn to interpret. These, if neglected, will give place to loud and incessant cries, which do not cease until

the nourishment thus loudly demanded is given. To prevent his forming a habit of crying,—a habit so painful to the tender mother,—she will do well to anticipate his wants, or supply them on his first and slightest intimation of need. Although hunger is the most frequent cause of the child's cries, yet there are other causes besides that produce crying. If the cries be not incessant, but at intervals, quick and abrupt, accompanied with a drawing up of the limbs towards the stomach, we may conclude that pain is the cause. If the hands be violently moved to the mouth, crying may be attributed to difficult dentition. The attentive mother will soon learn to distinguish the different cries, and will regulate her treatment accordingly. When the pain is in the bowels, rubbing gently with the hand, and warming the feet, will frequently give relief; a small dose of castor-oil or Dinneford's fluid magnesia may be useful. Should these means fail, medical aid should be resorted to. The delicate frame of the infant is too fragile a thing to be trifled with, and the evil, we fear, is not trifling which has been unwittingly perpetrated by the drug-giving mother. It frequently

happens that there is difficulty experienced as to the treatment to be pursued before medical advice can be obtained. To meet this emergency, we cannot do better than recommend to the mother an excellent little work by Dr Shore, entitled, "Domestic Medicine:"¹ it deserves a place in every house.

Supposing the child to be healthy and thriving, and to have cut four teeth by the time he has attained the age of nine months, he may then be weaned. Previously to this, however, it is well to have him accustomed to the use of the spoon; indeed some recommend this from the beginning, as a something to fall back upon in case of sickness, or failure of milk on the part of the mother. Besides, few mothers are able to nourish unaided a strong and thriving infant; to assist them, therefore, it is not unusual to give small quantities of the farinaceous food previously recommended; it may be given twice-a-day after the fourth month; a month or two later, three times will not be too often. The process of weaning will thus be accomplished with comparative ease.

¹ Domestic Medicine. Edinburgh: William P. Nimmo.

In circumstances, and these are many, in which the mother cannot take entire charge of her child, we would counsel the greatest care in the choice of an assistant. Some housewives seem to think that while an experienced servant is necessary for cooking and for housework, any one may do to keep a child. This is exactly the reverse of what should be. Put up with any or every deficiency in your cook that you please, but for your child have a tried and trusty servant—one with a heart to love and wisdom to guide her interesting charge. Not necessarily of mature age,—for wisdom is not always to be measured by years; but if young, cheerful, and sensible, thoughtful and kind—if possessed of these qualities, youth need be no objection; children love young faces, and are pleased with the hilarity incident to youth.

In taking the infant out for the benefit of the open air, the most natural place is the nurse's arms. The necessary heat is thus supplied, and the frequent change of position from one arm to another is both pleasant and beneficial. Children, if carried long in one arm, are apt to become crooked. Perambulators are fast losing their place in public

estimation; the pale and wan appearance of their little occupants, the pained expression, the look of hopeless resignation so evident on their countenances, too plainly show that from such a mode of airing they derive injury instead of benefit. Many a serious and fatal disease dates from exposure in a perambulator, and not a few, also, from the gossiping habits of unprincipled nurse-maids, who, in their eager talk with even a casual acquaintance, are insensible to the claims of the little one who lies shivering in their arms. Hence the necessity of a conscientious nurse-maid, whose watchful care extends beyond the reach of her mistress's eye.

And here it may be remarked that, while exercise in the open air is of great advantage to children in general, to the infant in arms the benefit, in cold weather at least, is very questionable. Indeed, some whose professional skill and long experience in the treatment of the young entitle their opinions to respect, insist that children born in winter should not be taken out till the approach of mild weather. This certainly seems a rational method, for although children who can run about and keep themselves warm may take no harm from

exposure to the keen wintry air, it may be very different with the infant who lies passive and motionless in its nurse's arms. Much, however, depends on circumstances. The weather in some seasons is as mild in January as we could desire it to be in June,—the climate even in neighbouring localities varies very much,—and in the constitution of infants there is frequently so much difference, that what would not injure one would cause the death of another. We knew of a lady who approved so much of children being early accustomed to the open air, that she commenced the system almost with the birth of her infants. If they were not out the very first day on which they saw the light, assuredly they would be so either on the second or third day after, even although frost and snow might be on the ground. And well they throve upon it, partly because of their naturally good constitutions, partly because of the regularity with which the system was carried out. That it will not do for all, however, the following circumstance proves. This same lady had a servant who went direct from her service to that of another lady, where were also children, one of them

in arms. Her new mistress sent her out as usual with the children, but neglected to name exactly the time for her return. The girl having been always encouraged to lengthen her walks as much as possible, for the sake of the children, naturally thought that what was good for one could not be bad for another,—did not swerve from her accustomed plan. Thinking, no doubt, that she was doing good service to her new charge, she kept them out for hours. The weather was severe, and the consequences to each and all were such as to prevent the repetition of such a walk for a considerable time to come. Happily, it was productive of no further bad consequences. This shows, moreover, the necessity of mothers being very specific in their directions to servants, especially to those just entered on their service. Everything should be explained, and nothing taken for granted.

For the first few weeks of the infant's life, much of its time is spent in sleep. This is the best thing possible, contributing, as it does, vastly to its healthy growth. By and by it becomes more lively, and shows, in most cases, an uncontrollable desire for motion. A good nurse takes much pleasure in

gratifying this desire, and dandles and jumps the child to its heart's content. Too much of this, however, is as injurious to the infant as it is unnecessarily fatiguing to the nurse. It will be found an excellent plan to lay down the child on the carpet, or, should the room not be provided with one, on a mat. He will enjoy this beginning of liberty amazingly: it will exercise and strengthen his little limbs, and prepare him for the future operations of creeping and walking. It need scarcely be added, that a watchful eye must be kept over the little one. The consequences that might follow from carelessness here, it is too painful to contemplate. We have heard of a nurse being so inexcusably rash as to attempt to lift a vessel of boiling liquid over the head of an infant, and, failing to do so, inflicting untold sufferings on the helpless and confiding babe. That such carelessness should exist, one has difficulty in believing; but that it does exist, admits not of a doubt: hence the necessity for the utmost vigilance on the part of the mother to keep her child not only from danger, but from every approach to it. Nursemaids should be cautioned, while moving about

with their charge, to protect the head of the infant. A very slight blow, or a coming in contact with any piece of furniture, may be productive of fatal consequences. This may seem an unnecessary caution. We imagine not, and deem it a thing too often neglected. Also the necessity of keeping the child's head away from the fire may be mentioned. The little feet can scarcely have too much of the fire, or the head too little. Keep the feet warm and the head cool are maxims that apply to the infant as to the adult. The concluding maxim, "and the bowels open," deserves also some notice. Especially at the trying season of teething must this be attended to. A small tea-spoonful of castor-oil is a safe medicine for the infant when the bowels are confined. It is also good when there is any irritation of the bowels. "After its operation a little lime-water may be given, a tea-spoonful every two hours, or less, until the irritation has ceased."¹ When the child is very fat, it makes dentition more difficult. Instances are not wanting of children dying at this stage, apparently from no other cause. Over-feeding, then, must be carefully avoided.

¹ Shore's "Domestic Medicine."

CHAPTER II.

PHYSICAL TRAINING.

Learning to Walk—Dangers at this Stage—How to Avoid them—
Self-preservation—Accidents in Childhood—Employment—
Change of Employment—Play—Toys—Delight in Motion—
Happy Childhood—Nursery—Clothing—Food—Sleep.

IT is unquestionable that the mother may do very much, by means of proper regimen and rational treatment in general, to preserve and promote the health of her children. While this is true, it must not be forgotten that, with all her care, sickness and disease may invade her family. In this case her only plan is that already recommended, at once to call in medical aid. Delay, proverbially dangerous, is doubly so here, and not unfrequently is productive of serious results. Taking for granted that the child thrives and passes favourably over the first stages of teething,

he will then show a desire to walk. Many mothers anticipate this desire, set the child on his feet, teach him to walk, and urge him on in every possible way, imagining that the sooner it can be accomplished the greater is the feat. This procedure is not to be commended, and generally results in partial deformity. The child will spontaneously begin to use his limbs, when they are sufficiently strong, and will grow up straight and well proportioned, which is assuredly much better than having him crooked and deformed, all for the paltry gratification of seeing him walk a few months earlier than his compeers.

When the child is fairly off, and is running about, the mother's toils are in some measure lessened, but her anxieties are increased, for she is not now in a position, as formerly, to protect him from the numberless evils and accidents to which he is exposed. His dangers increase in proportion as he is removed from under her watchful eye. No doubt he is learning every day spontaneously the art of taking care of himself, and the mother will do well to aid him in this. She may warn him not to play with fire, lest he be

burned; not to touch a knife, lest he cut himself; not to climb to any height, lest he fall and be hurt. She will show him how to descend from a chair or a sofa, not head foremost, at the risk of breaking his neck, but to slide down feet undermost, with the face towards the chair, sofa, or bed, as the case may be. These and a thousand other things, little apparently, but nevertheless important, she will teach him, thus greatly lessening his danger by training him in the art of self-preservation. And, seeing he is exposed to so many casualties, she will do well to examine his little frame from time to time, to make him walk and move his limbs in every direction, so that should anything be wrong, it may be noticed in time, and the remedy applied. The want of this precaution is often the cause of great and prolonged suffering to the child. In proof of this, we could point to several cases, some of them sufficiently sad. One little girl, while yet in babyhood, had a nurse careless enough to let her fall, and wicked enough to conceal the accident and the injury thereby sustained. At the end of six weeks it was discovered, in time to save the life

of the child, doubtless, but not to preserve her from permanent deformity.

Another case, somewhat similar, where the victim was a fine healthy boy, resulted in years of suffering, confirmed deformity, and early death. A less serious case may be mentioned, where peevishness and irritability in a hitherto stout and healthy boy, was attributed to a slight derangement of the system, and to remedy which the child was encouraged to remain as much as possible in the open air, and greatly to extend his daily walks. Instead of deriving any benefit, however, the child got daily worse, had increasing difficulty in moving his limbs; then he walked slightly lame, and at last could not be dressed or undressed without screaming with pain. During all this time his head had that inclination to the one side which is almost an unfailing symptom of spinal disease. When at last medical aid was summoned, it was found that the spine had received some injury, how or when was never ascertained. The plan adopted by the mother was thus exactly the reverse of what should have been done, and only tended to increase the evil.

Happily a cure was effected, but not till years had passed; whereas it might have been done in months, had the remedy been applied in time. In view of these facts, we cannot do wrong in pressing this matter on the mother's notice, assured that, if attended to, it would prevent much suffering and consequent deformity.

As months roll on, the child, if healthy, will testify a great desire for employment of some kind or other. He will run out and in, backwards and forwards, jumping here and climbing there, performing mischievous tricks of every sort, and running into dangers innumerable. The ceaseless activity manifested by most children is truly marvellous; and it will be wise to direct it to something useful, or at all events to turn it aside from the destructive channel in which it naturally runs. If kindly encouraged,—coaxed, it may be—to make themselves useful, children will soon delight in being so, and will take as much pleasure in arranging mamma's workbox, or fetching her footstool, as in building their bricks or tending their dolls. It is astonishing how soon, in the cottage, the little girl will be a help to her mother; how

neatly she will handle the broom and the duster; how carefully she will tend her younger brothers and sisters. And the little boy, also, will not be without opportunity of lending his helping hand—he, too, can aid in amusing and tending the younger ones, and, as his strength increases, he can be engaged in heavier work. If in the country, he can aid in the garden at a very early age; and although with even a willing hand and cheerful heart he should accomplish but little, yet, if he gain the habit of industry, and strengthen the desire to be useful, he has gained much. The child who grows up with no other desire than that of self-gratification, will be no ornament to any society; and he who has not been trained to diligence and industry, cannot be expected to attain to eminence in any position. And if in the humble walks of life the young should be trained to useful and diligent habits, why not in higher circles? The useless man, however high his position, hangs like a dead weight on society; not only so, he is a burden to himself, for he who confers no happiness on others, cannot enjoy that blessing himself. In training children to usefulness, therefore, we

guide them to one of the pathways to happiness; and the observing mother will not be long in seeing the truth of this. Doubtless, if she have acted on the principles laid down above, she will find her little ones anxious to lend their helping-hand in her service; and as she follows her household avocations, their willing feet will follow her; with eager gaze, perchance, they will look up and say, "Mamma, am I any help?" and if the answer be favourable, as it is sure to be, the beaming eye shows how they exult in the thought of being useful. To promote such feelings will be the wisdom and happiness of the mother.

Though usefulness should be an object in training children, too much must not be expected from them. Frequent change of employment is absolutely necessary; if kept too long at one thing, the energies of the child will flag, his spirits will sink, his temper and finally his health will suffer. If he do well and cheerfully any trifling thing you desire, even though it should occupy but five minutes, be satisfied, for this period, short as it seems to us, is very long to him. You can increase the time at pleasure, and thus gradually

strengthen the desire of being useful; whereas, if you insist on a continuation of effort when the child has become wearied and spiritless, he will become disgusted with work of every kind, acquire a disobliging disposition, and a habit of leaving unfinished everything he commences. And it must be remembered, too, that play, real *bond-fide* play, apart from all considerations of usefulness, is a necessity for children,—play, too, which they must in measure choose for themselves. The tastes of children, as of adults, vary much. We have known some who, in describing previous days of happiness, invariably ended with saying, and we were allowed to make as much *noise* as ever we liked. This, to them, seemed the acmé of delight; but though the tastes of all may not lead in this direction, yet in general children do love noise. This, then, must *in moderation* be permitted; if the steam do not get egress in this way, it may force itself out in some less agreeable manner. Noise, to a certain extent, if carried on with good humour, will not greatly disturb; indeed, to a parent's ear, the sound of youthful merriment is always pleasant.

We are borne out in this by a remark made the other day by the father of a young family :—"What a change has come over me," said he, "since I was married; formerly nothing annoyed me more than the noise of children; now," he added, "it is the sweetest music I can hear; and not only in my own house, but even in my neighbour's, the sound of a childish voice is delightful." This feeling, we are persuaded, is not peculiar to one friend, but is shared by almost every parent.

In order to vary the play of children, and to invest it with a quieter character, a few toys may be provided—not a profusion of expensive toys: these but foster extravagance, vanity, and caprice. For boys nothing can be better than little wooden blocks in the form of bricks. If possessed of any mechanical turn they will amuse themselves for hours in building and pulling down alternately. This cheap and durable toy is within the reach of all. For girls, nothing can be better than the doll; to dress it in the morning, to put it to bed at night, to make its clothes, to keep its wardrobe in order—all this will prove a good preparation for future duties. The affection lavished on the pretty play-

thing will not be lost; it will spring up and increase tenfold, to be expended hereafter on more worthy objects. Out of doors, the skipping-rope and the ball may be allowed for girls. By skipping backward, the former will prove useful as a chest-expander. For little boys, the spade and barrow are even better than the ball and the hoop. But even these may be dispensed with; the bright sun and the bracing air are better than a thousand playthings; and if, in addition, children are allowed that use of their limbs which nature dictates, they will be quite satisfied. Like all young animals, they delight in motion. The little lambs frisk about incessantly, and the kitten is never weary of its graceful gambols. We may learn a lesson from this, and see the necessity of allowing a similar liberty to the young of a higher race. It is truly melancholy to see a band of young creatures marching two and two, in solemn procession, and to mark the sad and joyless expressions of faces which would have beamed with delight under different treatment. Whatever restraint may be necessary at other times, during hours of recreation at least it should be relaxed, so far at

least as to allow of a happy play-hour. And not only so, a happy childhood should, if possible, be secured. In the struggle to supply all that is needful for the child, the mother who is in straitened circumstances may lose sight of this object, and in doing so is perhaps more to be pitied than blamed. But there are many who labour under no such disadvantages, and yet who have never proposed to themselves any such object. If they supply the physical wants of their children when young, and, as they grow up, give attention to their mental and moral training, they fancy they have done enough. Of happiness they have never thought. Doubtless, as previously hinted, a wise, and kind, and rational treatment will produce beneficial results, and of these happiness is not the least. Still, an object of so much consequence should not be left in this position. To seek individually one's own happiness is doubtless the worst way to obtain it; as well might we expect to catch our own shadow. But in seeking the happiness of others, the case is different,—here we cannot err; and especially with the young should it be an object kept distinctly in view.

To them it is fraught with an importance which can scarcely be over-estimated, and exerts over their future life a powerful influence. It softens and humanizes the mind, and forms, in after years, a subject of pleasing retrospection.

While the great delight of children is to be in the open air, they must necessarily spend by far the greater portion of their time in the house. Attention must therefore be paid to their indoor accommodation. Their sleeping-room should be light and airy, with no more furniture than what is absolutely necessary. Curtains and carpets are both condemned by high authority. Certainly, without them cleanliness is more easily maintained; and this is a condition of health absolutely indispensable. While the frequent washing of the nursery floor is of great advantage, promoting as it does both the health and comfort of the little inmates, the greatest care must be taken to avoid damp. For this purpose, the floor should be washed early in the day, to ensure thorough dryness before bedtime. There should be, if possible, in addition to the sleeping-room, a nursery for the day, where the children may employ and amuse them-

selves. The furniture here, too, should be very scanty, and anything likely to injure the children avoided. We have heard of a father so fearful of his children falling into danger, as to have a room built for them of a circular form, without a single corner to hurt them should they happen to fall. But this is a degree of care to which few have the means of reaching; nor, indeed, is it desirable they should. Children cannot be always kept as in a box; they must go out into the world, and face dangers in various forms. It is better, therefore, that they should be gradually accustomed to them. Special care should at all times be taken to protect them from fire; for this purpose a fire-guard should be used. If the room is on an upper storey, the windows should be fastened, or protected by gratings.

Much of a child's comfort depends on the nature of his clothing. An ill-fitting and consequently uncomfortable dress will irritate and annoy him, and most probably will contract and injure his form; whereas a well-made dress is not only pleasant to the wearer, but is calculated to promote ease and elegance in the figure. And if

great attention should be paid to dress in general, much more is it necessary to attend to the feet in particular. The wearing of a short boot for a single day will produce the bunion, and, in addition to the disfigurement thereby caused, will give pain and annoyance for a whole lifetime; and who does not know the misery consequent on wearing tight boots, in the shape of those troublesome little callosities called corns?

Besides attention to the make of the garments, their fabric must also be considered. In this variable and severe climate warm clothing is of the utmost consequence, and in these days of winceys, reps, etc., every advantage is given for this. Very different was it half-a-century ago, when the warmest fabrics were cold compared with our tartans and our tweeds; and even these were almost, as to price, beyond the reach of moderate incomes. If the child be in winter warmly clad, he will be able to resist almost any amount of cold; and should he be exposed to rain and snow in addition, if a change of garments be at once made, he will seldom experience any injury.

The feet should be protected by woollen stock-

ings, and shoes or boots of sufficient thickness to exclude the damp. And, above all, flannel should be worn next the skin. The want of this precaution has brought many a promising youth to an untimely grave; by attention to it, many a delicate child has been preserved, and brought up to a healthy manhood. In summer it is equally necessary as in winter; nay, more so, though it should be of a thinner texture, as it then serves to absorb the perspiration caused by the heat, and thus prevents cold chills. For this reason it was said by a medical man to his patients, "You may wear flannel in winter if you like, but, in summer you *must* wear it; that is, if you wish to preserve health."

As to food, a few words may not be inappropriate. Some mothers think it right to allow their children only a prescribed quantity, and stint them to it. The propriety of this plan is very questionable. The adult must eat to support his frame, but that frame is already matured; fuel he must heap on the inward fire, but that fire has attained its complete expansion. Not so with the child; he has not only to support the frame, he must

add to it; not only must he keep alive the fire within, he must add to its volume, else its flickering light would speedily be extinguished. The sustenance necessary to carry on this double process, the adult, we fancy, cannot estimate. The child is the best judge of it himself, and if allowed liberty he will in general strike the proper balance between too much and too little. We say in general; for if he is pampered with sweetmeats, cakes, confectionaries, and all sorts of delicacies, the case will be different; but give him plain nourishing food in abundance, and he will rarely overstep the limits of moderation. In order to direct the mother as to the kind of food most suitable, we subjoin extracts from the work before mentioned:—"During the first seven years, unless to meet certain indications, it is well to permit the farinaceous articles to enter largely into the diet as a whole. These, including bread, with well-cooked vegetable broth, animal soup, the lighter vegetables, and the gravy of roasted meat, should be the staple; tender chop and steak, or fowl, the occasional, or even frequent, varieties. There will, however, be exceptions to this rule. Some child-

ren, who have got several teeth, are growing fast, are active in their movements, and who lose ground on the above plan, must be allowed meat daily, in addition to the nourishing soups, etc., suggested. . . . After the sixth year, it is probable that the due admixture of animal and vegetable food is the most suitable and appropriate diet. An early hour of the day is best suited for the principal meal of children." "Of ordinary animal food, beef and mutton are the most nutritious, and when well cooked, particularly roasted, may be considered as easily digested as any other." "A dinner composed of a little soup, followed by a moderate allowance of beefsteak, mutton, or beef, roasted or otherwise cooked, or one composed of white fish, with any of the articles named, is better than if the whole repast had consisted of beefsteak, which, under such circumstances, with a good appetite, would be likely to be taken in too large an amount." "A well-cooked pudding is a wholesome addition to dinner." "For the proper exercise of the function of digestion, it is very necessary to observe regularity of meals, not to make long fasts, not to be in a hurry when eating,

and so bolt the food; but, by careful mastication, commit it to the stomach, already as well prepared as the teeth can and ought to make it, for digestion there. It should always be remembered that, when food has reached the stomach, it remains for some time undergoing a process of solution. This process takes, in health, as a general rule, from two to three hours; and while it lasts nothing more in the way of food should be taken."

In addition to the above articles, we may mention milk and eggs as peculiarly suitable for children. For breakfast nothing can be better than well-boiled porridge; for supper, bread and milk will be found excellent. To stint children in such food partakes of the nature of cruelty. If to teach self-denial, surely there are many ways of doing so without subjecting them to the pangs of hunger.

Besides attending to the quantity and quality of the food, as has been already said, there must be regularity in the hours of giving it. At the accustomed time, the stomach craves its due, and if deprived of it, or doomed to delay, it will suffer.

Study regularity, then, in this if you would have your children healthy and cheerful.

With regard to sleep, and the quantity required, it is impossible to lay down any exact rules; some require much, others little. But whatever be the time spent in sleep, it should be early in the evening. Seven o'clock is a good hour for children under three to be put to rest for the night. At that age they generally require an hour's sleep in the middle of the day. Delicate children should be allowed to awake of their own accord. The delicacy of many, we are persuaded, would cease were they allowed to do so. No nursing is so successful in some cases as that of sleep. True, as well as touchingly beautiful, is the poet's expression—

“Sleep, gentle sleep, *Nature's soft nurse.*”

While delicate children may be allowed to have their sleep out, under no circumstances should children be suddenly and roughly awakened. It is highly injurious to their nervous system to do so, and exerts also a prejudicial influence on their tempers. Let soft, kind words be the first sounds

that meet their ears on each new day. We have heard of a father who carried this so far as to have his children wakened up each morning by the sound of soft, sweet music, in order to impart to them a calm and cheerful temper.

CHAPTER III.

MORAL TRAINING.

Obedience—Few Laws—Reproof—Punishment—Threatening—Promises—Whims—Truthfulness—Selfishness—Invalid—Charity—Order—Reverence for Parents—Injudicious Conduct of Parents—Suitable Companions—Cheerful Homes—Self-sacrificing and Devoted Mothers—Children should be in Subjection—Should not be run after—Should give as well as receive Attention—Decision.

AS years pass on, in addition to the duties above mentioned, others of a more serious nature devolve on the mother. The opening powers of the mind require to be strengthened and directed aright, and the uprisings of evil to be repressed: instruction must be given, discipline must be enforced. Now will the utmost vigilance and self-control be in requisition, for not even maternal love, great as it is, will be able at all times to preserve from anger and impatience. Against

these the mother must be on her guard, for the best preparation for ruling others is to have perfect command over one's self. Suffer not, then, your spirit to be ruffled by any waywardness on the part of your child; at the same time, do not suffer an easy indolence of disposition so far to prevail over you as to make you weakly yield your will to his. Complete submission to your authority must from the very first be insisted on. This is the first lesson to be taught, and if taught early it will be all the more easily acquired. Without this, education cannot be carried on as it ought, for there is no foundation on which to rear the superstructure. The child who refuses to obey his parents, and who is suffered to go on in rebellion, has little chance of yielding obedience to a higher Power. For the sake of your child, more than for your own comfort, spare no pains to maintain that authority which, for wise purposes, is committed to you. And to make this easier, let your laws be few and simple, easily remembered and easily obeyed. To give children a multiplicity of rules and regulations is just to annoy and perplex them. They cannot keep all

in memory, and as they break through one and another, and find that they cannot keep all, they lose sight of the necessity of keeping any. Thus a state of rebellion may be induced, as much opposed to the happiness of the little insurgents as it is to that of their ruler. The wiser plan confessedly is, to have few laws, but, like those of the Medes and Persians, those few must be unchangeable. If so, your children will soon learn that they cannot with impunity break or evade them.

Obedience being thus secured, considerable latitude in other things may be allowed, and much that is not quite according to your mind may be passed over with safety. A continual fault-finding with children is most injurious both to their health and temper, and tends materially to diminish the power and influence of the parent who practises it. But when it is really necessary to find fault, let it be done with discrimination. Do not visit a fault proceeding from carelessness or inattention with the same severity as you would one involving moral delinquency. This were to confound all ideas of right and wrong in the mind of the child. And

yet there are not wanting parents who do so, evincing the same displeasure at the accidental breaking of a piece of china or crystal as they would at the utterances of deceit and falsehood. Let it not be so with you. Cultivate, above all things, truth and sincerity in your children, and let anything opposed to these meet with your unqualified disapprobation. Let it be manifest that truth and rectitude are more valuable in your estimation than the choicest ornaments of your drawing-room.

But while reproof for some children may suffice, on others it may be powerless, and punishment may thus be necessary. Of what kind? it may be asked. "Chasten thy son while there is *hope*," says Solomon, thus intimating that there is a time when the rod is of no avail. Again,—"*He that spareth the rod hateth his son; but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.*" Comparing these passages with each other, and with the whole tenor of revelation, we can be at no loss to perceive that *early* childhood is the only season in which corporal punishment can be employed with success. If judiciously and mercifully used, then, there is little probability of it being required in after years.

We say mercifully, for the cruel chastisement of some parents is as abhorrent to nature as it is contrary to religion; a mean gratification of their own angry passions, it affords to the helpless victims an example which they will be but too apt to follow when they have the opportunity of doing so. The parent who cannot correct but in anger had better leave his child unchastened; for "the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God." • •

When the season favourable to discipline has passed away, and the hitherto unchastened child proves stubborn and rebellious, the use of the rod will, it is to be feared, only increase the evil. The feelings of hatred and revenge stirred up by its unseasonable use, will in all probability entirely repress any lingering feeling of regret for the fault committed, and thus harden instead of softening the heart. The great object in punishment or reproof being to touch the conscience, move the will, and thereby influence the conduct, anything that prevents this must be avoided. To allow a short season for reflection has often been found beneficial: it affords time for repentance; and when the passions are calmed down, a few words of serious

admonition and kind counsel may succeed in bringing the offending one to a right spirit. A passage of Scripture bearing on the subject has often had a good effect. But it is impossible to give any definite rules, circumstances vary so much. The mother who has begun her course of training in timè, and continued it without wavering, will have little difficulty in her work; if unfortunately she have suffered the favourable moment to pass by, the case is different. With the most sincere desire to make up for past neglect, she will find it difficult to strike the proper medium. But if she do err, as it is likely she will, better far to err on the side of gentleness than on that of severity, —better to lead with the silken cords of love, than to drive with the iron rod of severity.

Whatever be the mode of punishment thought best, let it be followed out at once; but by all means avoid threatening. In nine cases out of ten the threat is made in a moment of impatience, and forgotten the next minute; it can, therefore, have only an injurious instead of a beneficial effect upon the child. And be careful also how you make a promise to a child. Never do so unless you mean

to carry it out at whatever cost. And in your anxiety not to promise what possibly you may not be able conveniently to perform, avoid tantalising a child by keeping it in continual suspense. It is better to refuse decidedly than to put off a child with an uncertain reply. "I'll see about it," was the reply so often given to every request of a certain little one, that at last she added to every entreaty, "But O, mamma don't see." Experience had taught her that the answer, "I'll see," was equivalent to a denial of the request, as her mamma never did "see her way" to grant it. Although it is quite right and natural to consult the tastes of children and to anticipate their wishes, it is best to do so spontaneously; it is not good to allow them to make many requests. Especially at table they should be accustomed quietly and pleasantly to take whatever is given them. If allowed constantly to get what they like, they become selfish and self-willed, unhappy themselves, and troublesome to all around them. This may seem a trifling matter, but in its results it is far from being so. No one can tell how much of selfishness has been developed and strengthened by the simple gratifi-

cation of a child's fancies or rather whims ; it may be merely the desire for the brown part of the pudding or the white crust of the loaf, as the case may be—a thing esteemed too trifling to be denied. But gratified in this one particular, he expects the same indulgence in all ; insensibly his demands increase till, too late, the mother perceives her mistake. Happy for her if she can manage to uproot the plant which has sprung from so small a seed !

While truth and sincerity are to be inculcated above all things, care must be taken not to accuse the child without good reason. Put confidence in your child, and in all probability that confidence will be returned tenfold. To doubt and distrust him is the very way to make him double and deceitful. Encourage him candidly to confess any error of which he has been guilty, and in this case, if it do not involve any moral delinquency, deal gently with him ; if an opposite plan be pursued, the probability is that he will deny every thing that he has done wrong, and thus a habit of untruth will be formed and strengthened, and of all habits this is the worst. "Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord," Scripture assures us ; and

we may add they are an abomination, too, in the sight of every right-minded person. Let the least approach to such a thing be repressed with vigour and firmness, and let any tendency to *embellish* be discouraged; teach them to narrate any circumstance that may have come within their notice exactly as it happened, without addition or alteration. When this plan is neglected, the bulwarks of truth are broken down, and no one can tell how far this seemingly slight deviation from the paths of truth may lead. We have heard the following maxims, and we heartily recommend them. Before you speak, consider three things: 1st, Is what I am about to say *true*? 2d, Is it kind? 3d, Is it useful?

Among the evils that need to be repressed in a child, selfishness must not be forgotten. This root of evil germinates and springs up with frightful rapidity; means therefore should be taken at a very early period to prevent its growth. It is a good plan to accustom children to give to those around them a share of every "bon-bon," and on no account should the proffered gift be rejected. As they grow up, they should be taught to be

generous to one another—to lend their toys, and to seek each other's good; yet do not allow the difference between "mine" and "thine" to be forgotten. It is pleasant to see a child give the use of all he esteems most precious to a brother or a sister; but it is not nice to see that brother or sister demand these authoritatively as a matter of right, and insist on having them, "will ye," or "nil ye." The child that is permitted to do so, will in all probability be found in after years not over-scrupulous in appropriating to himself the goods of another, when he finds it convenient to do so. In the nursery, as in the world, the rights of each should be held sacred, otherwise the strong and the bold will domineer over the weak and the timid.

While the elder should be taught to exercise a watchful care over the younger members of the family, and to bear with their weakness, they should not be made to yield to their wishes in every thing, or to submit to all their caprices. We have seen this plan result in the younger ones as they grew up lording it over the elder, thus reversing the proper and natural order

of things. We would warn the mother against this error, so natural where the family is large, and would urge her to follow the scriptural injunction: "Let the younger submit themselves to the elder." At first it may be a little more difficult, but in the end will work better.

Should there be an invalid in the house, the difficulty will be increased tenfold. Although it is delightful to see every member of the family, from the eldest to the youngest, vying with each other in administering to the comfort of the little sufferer; yet it is not unattended with danger, for its tendency is to make the recipient of so many attentions careless as to the claims and feelings of others. Accustomed to be the first, he soon begins to think that he is so in reality; his thoughts centre in self, and by degrees he becomes both selfish and exacting. Instead of receiving attentions with gratitude, and trying to cause as little trouble as possible, he thinks all the kindness lavished upon him nothing more than his due, and evinces no desire to lessen the labours of his attendants. Doubtless it is difficult to deny any thing to the suffering child, one is so anxious to

compensate for the want of his simple childish enjoyments, yet over-indulgence even here cannot be too sedulously guarded against. It too frequently brings forth bitter fruit in after years, producing with returning health a selfish and unamiable character, and causing bitter regret on the part of the mother for her well-meant but ill-timed indulgence.

But children should not only be taught generosity to each other, they should also be taught kindness and charity to all. To excite sympathy in them is no difficult thing; a charity that costs nothing they are ever ready to exercise, as the earnest appeals they invariably make to their parents for the relief of every case of suffering which they witness abundantly proves. Charity at the expense of others, however, is a virtue too common to require cultivation; that which shrinks not at self-denial and self-sacrifice is the only charity worth the name. If the child give up some little indulgence to supply the wants of the needy, it will prove the reality of his sympathy; and if he be encouraged to do so occasionally, the generous feeling will be gradually deepened and

strengthened. Yet judgment must be exercised here and moderation observed, lest a sickly sentimentalism be fostered on the one hand, or, on the other, the child become wearied and disgusted with the too frequent claims on his sympathy and self-denial. For sufferings in the mass human nature does not, in general, sympathise much; in order that the interest may be intensified, particular cases must be singled out from the crowd. We hear of hundreds, nay thousands, being cut down in battle without any very great emotion; but when we single out one from the crowd,—a Hedley Vicars, for example,—if we trace his course, follow him through all his wanderings, see him in the midst of dangers, surrounded by hostile ranks, his life-blood shed by their ruthless hands, and his young eyes closed in death on the hateful battle-field, then do we feel intense interest and overpowering emotion. So if the child be merely called upon to aid the poor in general, he may exhibit but a faint interest and a tardy sympathy. Try, then, to interest him in particular cases, and you will in all probability elicit the deepest interest, and call forth the most willing help.

Self-denial will thus become comparatively easy, and the desire of being useful will make him fertile in expedients for accomplishing his purpose.

The same plan will produce even more decided results on the little girl, for her opportunities of doing good are more numerous than those of her brother. She can call in, as she grows up, the powerful aid of her needle. By a very small expenditure of time and labour, she can render the garments, which to her are of no use, very valuable to children less favoured than she is, and her spare hours she can fill up by knitting warm and comfortable stockings to cover the poor little feet, chilblained by exposure; and when she sees the additional comforts produced by her thoughtful care, the thrill of delight which ever accompanies the kind deed will animate her to go on in the path she has begun. Of course, assistance will at first be required, but time and attention on such an object is well bestowed, and the mother assuredly will never regret it.

There are few things that contribute more to the comfort of a family, especially if it be a large

one, than habits of order in every member composing it. Where the well-known maxim, "A place for every thing, and every thing in its place," is attended to by all, the labour to mistress as well as to servants is greatly lessened, and the happiness of the whole household promoted. But where this is neglected, and disorder permitted to reign, comfort cannot subsist,—we had almost said happiness cannot dwell. This much at least is certain, that a great amount of effort is necessary on the part of a true lover of order to maintain peace and composure, if condemned to deal with those who bid defiance to its laws. The most equal temper is apt to be irritated by the ever-recurring annoyances attendant on such circumstances. This may be called a little thing, but it is of little things that life is chiefly composed, and of these is the sum of human happiness or misery made up. Great things happen but seldom in a life-time, and when they do, all the energies of the mind and the aids of religion are summoned to meet the emergency; but the little annoyances of daily life, of which the one in question is not the least, are often thought too trifling to demand attention,

and so too frequently temper and spirit at once give way. To prevent all these faults and inconveniences in after life, it is well to accustom children early to keep every thing about them and belonging to them tidy and neat. If they are tired of a plaything, insist on them putting it by at once; if they have finished their work, let it be folded up and put in the place assigned for it; when the lessons are learned, let the books in like manner be put aside. Suppose one child to leave his toys scattered about in every direction; another his books here and there and everywhere; a third her work in chaotic confusion, and the discomfort that would ensue we can easily imagine. If the elder branches of the family, the master and mistress even, act with the same contempt of order, the case is rendered still worse. It may be said, servants will put all right, they are there for the purpose. Vain hope! for where order and method are wanting in the family, and especially in the mistress, it is needless to expect them in the servant. And even were servants possessed of these valuable qualities, their efforts would be powerless to rectify matters. They might put

right one hour, but the next would see all wrong again, and to such an unsatisfactory mode of operating no sensible servant would submit. This, though it may be thought an extreme case, is one to which neglect in the nursery is very apt to lead.

Here it may be remarked that children should be taught to treat servants in a respectful manner. Anything like overbearing and domineering conduct in children is truly unbecoming, and should resolutely be discouraged. For many years they will require much assistance from others in dressing, and in other things; this they should be taught to receive, not with pride because they are superior, but with gratitude because they are dependent. This distinction, if thoroughly impressed on their minds, will aid much in producing a grateful and amiable spirit. And while children should be polite to servants and to all around them, the same spirit and behaviour should be exercised to them in turn. The scolding of children should never be permitted. To raise the voice even, or to speak in any other manner than one would to an adult in polite society, will be

found, with proper training, to be quite unnecessary. "Reverence in the child the future man," is a maxim that should never be forgotten.

While the maxim which enforces order in respect to place should be remembered, that which treats of order as to time should not be forgotten. The time for retiring to rest, the time for rising in the morning, the time for lessons, and the time for play, all should be scrupulously attended to. Doubtless a change of employment is necessary for children; if kept too long at one thing they get wearied and dispirited. Still, if allowed to change at pleasure, they acquire a desultory habit, doing things by fits and starts—"every thing by turns, and nothing long." When the hour for a lesson has arrived, let that lesson be mastered, and during its progress insist on complete attention being given. If it be suited to the tender years of the learner, there will be little difficulty in accomplishing this. If the hour for rising be kept with punctuality, and the meals be regular as clockwork, this will greatly conduce to the formation of methodical habits; and strictness in requiring the presence of each at table when the

prescribed hour has arrived, will serve to strengthen them. Not unfrequently we have seen children continue their work or their play for some time after the dinner-bell had rung, and consequently come dropping in one by one after dinner had commenced. This is bad, even though dinner be in the nursery; for there as well as in the parlour should obedience be enforced, and respectful treatment of attendants be required. But if privileged to sit at the same table with their parents, such conduct is still worse, for it evinces a want of reverence for them which should not for a moment be tolerated. The children should wait for the parents, not the parents for the children.

The fact that want of respect is the characteristic of the present age, so far from making the mother overlook it, should urge her to watch more jealously against its encroachments. Doubtless, the natural order of things is completely reversed in the present day. Formerly the question was, "What are the wishes of our parents?" Now it is, "What do we children desire?" Formerly parents were supposed to know best, and their judgment was therefore consulted in every thing.

Now, not only are their wishes set aside, but, what is perhaps worse, their judgment is despised! Nor is this spirit evinced only to parents whose early years have been passed under disadvantageous circumstances, and who therefore cannot be expected to have the same knowledge as, through their fostering care, their children have acquired; it is manifested even to parents whose talents and acquirements are of a high order. We do not say that this state of things is universal,—sorry should we be were it so,—yet that it is very general will not, we think, be denied. One not uncommon result is, that young people, actuated by a vain desire to imitate the circle above them, feel dissatisfied and discontented with their position, and blame their parents for withholding indulgences for which their means are inadequate. Instead of acquiescing in the superior knowledge of those whose long experience entitle them to confidence, they attribute their conduct to ignorance as well as to meanness, and fancy that wisdom dwells with them alone; and how often do they manage to enlist the mother on their side, and, together, unite in urging the

stronger and wiser parent to a course which his better judgment disapproves—a course which ends in ruin and disgrace! If happily he have strength of mind to continue firm in his purposes, still his days are embittered by ceaseless entreaties and continued discontent. How much better, both for mother and children, to hold up the hands of him who, by the sweat of his brow or of his brain, supplies their wants, and thankfully to enjoy a moderate competence, without coveting a position that cannot be attained. The man who has, so to speak, made his position, and by his own efforts maintains it, is surely a better judge of the style in which he is able to live than the youth in his teens, who is guiltless of having advanced his position a single step, or having, by his own exertions, put a single guinea into his pocket. How much better for the mother to uphold the husband whose wisdom she can trust, than weakly to encourage the foolish extravagance of her children! Ere time has developed these noxious weeds, it will be her wisdom to sow the seeds of reverence, love, and obedience, and to cultivate them with care. She will find the advantage of it in after

years in her own comfort as well as her children's benefit.

Such conduct on the part of children suggests to us an error on the part of the parents which must also be condemned, and which this seems to be the proper place to notice. It is not unusual to see parents lavish the fondest endearments during the first years of childhood, and withdraw them just when the child becomes capable of appreciating affection. They will gratify every desire, and yield to every whim, at the time when the child should be taught implicit submission; and as soon as his reason begins to expand, and he is capable of making a wise choice, then they begin to check and restrain him, and oppose even his most reasonable wishes. This injudicious treatment has a most injurious effect, and can scarcely fail to inspire the child with distrust of his parent's affection, and thus to render his own less warm and confiding. And the constant refusal of every reasonable request must impress him with a sense of injustice, sour his temper, and slowly but surely undermine that confidence which should subsist between parent and child. And if

it is the parent's duty to make his offspring happy, that duty does not cease when infancy and childhood ripen into youth; on the contrary, that trying season demands increasing care. The parent may not, indeed, relish many things in which children delight at that age; their liveliness of manner and buoyancy of spirit may not suit well with his seriousness and sedateness; but if his desire for their welfare be consistent and sincere, he will be ready to forego his own pleasures in order to minister to theirs. Young people require suitable companions and cheerful intercourse; if they cannot find this at home, they will be but too apt to seek it abroad, and the evil effects which may result from this it is too painful to contemplate. Doubtless, the cares of a family and the toils of business have a tendency to increase the seriousness which time usually brings, and which too often degenerates into an unsocial taciturnity and melancholy moroseness. Against this the parent should earnestly strive. Nothing renders the fireside more cheerful, or the home circle more charming, than free and unrestrained intercourse between parent and child. It

is delightful to see the parent entering with cheerfulness into the innocent amusements of his children, and to see the children in return looking up with grateful affection for such kindness and condescension, and reposing that unwavering confidence in their parents' friendship which will be to them a firm safeguard against evil. The wise parent will be far from exacting in riper years the dutiful obedience which he claimed in childhood and youth; to do so would be to expose them to contempt, and to render them unfit for the duties of life. He will limit himself to express his opinion and to proffer his advice, recommended by the reasons which to his own mind seem conclusive, but the adoption or rejection of which he will calmly leave to their own judgment.

One would naturally suppose that the mother, who is unwearied in her exertions for the good of her offspring, would be rewarded by their devoted attentions as well as by their warmest love. Experience and observation compel us to say that this is not always the case. Human nature, in its weakness and selfishness, is apt to abuse the very best things. The child who has been the

object of the mother's devoted attentions, instead of receiving them with gratitude, too often looks upon them as mere matters of course, and as he grows up even exacts them as his due. On the other hand, such is the perversity of human nature, the mother who has taken the duties of maternity very lightly is often seen surrounded by the unremitting attentions of her offspring. Possibly, in the latter case, the mother's indulgence has called the activity and self-denial of the child into early and constant exercise, while in the former the self-sacrifice and devotion of the mother have left no place for the development of similar qualities in her offspring. To prevent this result, do not let your children be always receiving attention; accustom them also to give, for here also it is "more blessed to give than to receive." Do not be always running after them, gratifying their every wish; if you do, you will soon be their servant, nay, their slave; and surely this is a position repugnant to all our ideas of the fitness of things. More reasonable by far that the children should be the servants and not the masters. For this reason, accustom them early to attend to

your wants, to anticipate your wishes, and to assist you in every possible way. Maintain the dignified position which properly belongs to you, and keep them in that state of subjection which will constitute their true happiness. Parental restraint may be carried too far, as it was in the days of our ancestors, when the daughter was not even permitted to sit down in her mother's presence; but in the present day the error lies quite in an opposite direction. The young seem now to think that, as a matter of course, their will is law; and the bad grace with which they submit to their parents, would argue that they bear them little love or reverence, and almost look upon them only as the means of supplying their wants, or ministering to their pleasures.

With regard to the importance of decision in bringing up a family, much has been said and written. Now, if the mother be a woman of decision, so far well; she will find this quality of great importance. But if not, what then? Must she pretend to a qualification of which she is destitute, and ape a manner foreign to her nature? Certainly not; this were to expose her to ridicule, instead of

gaining for her obedience. Every individual has a character as distinct from that of his neighbour as is his countenance, and it is the part of wisdom for each to act according to the best of his ability in his own character, without imitating that of his neighbour. If the mother be distinguished by gentleness and love, let her act conscientiously in that spirit, and doubtless she will succeed. A natural and unconstrained manner is at all times preferable to the *acting* of a part, however good that part may be. Let her then cultivate right principles in herself, and try to instil them into her children in her own way, and she will not go far wrong, though decision be far from her nature.

more than the simple and majestic style of Holy Writ; and to imbibe the pure milk of the Word, unmixed with error and uncontaminated with human prejudice, is of great consequence. This is one great advantage of the above plan; for whatever be the merits of the numerous books written for the young in order to simplify the Bible, they must be tinged by the medium through which they pass, error and prejudice being unquestionably, in a greater or less degree, inseparable from fallen humanity; and however far from the intention of the writers, it is to be feared they frequently supplant the Book which they were written to explain. Not unfrequently books for children are written in an exciting, almost sensational style. The mother will do well to avoid such: they are highly injurious to the young, especially to those of a nervous and excitable temperament. Fear ought never to be used as a motive to children. The goodness of God, as displayed in every comfort they enjoy, every blessing they hope for, ought to be much dwelt upon, and will be found the most powerful motive to repentance. Not to dwell longer on a subject which

would of itself fill a volume, we simply remark that true Christian principle must form the groundwork of education, and by its aid alone can the mother expect to rear her children so as to realise the happiness depicted in the following lines:—

A Christian home ! what can with it compare,
The abode of piety, and peace, and prayer ?
Decision, wisdom, love, combine to sway
A happy household, willing to obey ;
No rebel thought, no angry feeling stains
Those sweet young hearts, where love perpetual reigns.
No jarring selfish interests here are known—
Each seeks another's good before his own !

There are various opinions as to the age suitable for beginning to give lessons to children. Some would begin almost with the first dawning of intelligence. Others again, looking from a different point of view, recommend that the child have full seven years' liberty ere he be yoked to the car of learning. Possibly this may be too long a period ; but surely it is better than forcing on the young mind at the risk both of life and health. We have seen children of three or four years of age, after being drilled at their alphabet, set down book in hand, told to learn their lesson,

and compelled to sit till the time for saying it came round, which might be hours afterwards. That a child could learn in such circumstances is out of the question; that he could sit still is equally so. The result we can easily fancy—reproof, and even punishment, for doing what, in the nature of things, he could not help doing, but to which the name of disobedience was given. Happily, the time for such mismanagement and misrule has passed away. There are, however, many still who begin the routine of education very early, and who impose hours distressingly long on the tender years of the little students. Some, in addition, seek to make the hours of recreation also seasons of instruction. Even during meal hours they are on the alert, if possibly some additional stores may be conveyed into the already over-crowded mind. Such treatment may perhaps result in producing for the time a little prodigy; but in a few years, or when the routine of education is finished, will this prodigy be found a whit farther forward than his compeers who commenced years later? We suspect not; the reverse, indeed, will generally be

found to be the case. The first years of childhood cannot be better spent than in laying in a store of health (moral training, of course, being attended to), and, generally, physical and mental development will be found to proceed simultaneously.

By the time the child has reached his sixth, or, at farthest, his seventh year, he will thus be in a position to commence with vigour the business of youth; and with an instructor of ordinary wisdom and competence, doubtless in one year he will overtake the child of his own age who began years before; with this difference, that his mental powers having been allowed to grow and expand, he will be likely not only to overtake but to outstrip, in the race of learning, one whose energies have been crushed by too early use. The forced progress made in early childhood, instead of proving a benefit, turns out eventually quite the reverse. But progress at the time even does not invariably result from the above-mentioned plan. Sometimes the undeveloped mind of the child cannot take in the instruction pressed upon it. Sometimes, though quite able to do so, the eagerness with which it is

urged upon him awakens in him feelings of disgust, and by degrees inspires him with a rooted dislike to learning in every shape. Children, though young, are not fools; they know right from wrong, and instinctively shrink from injustice, especially where they themselves are concerned. The fact of cheating them of their play-hour does not escape notice, and seems to them anything but fair. Nor is it so; the play-hour should be held sacred, for it is necessary. The bow always bent soon becomes useless. And at meal times especially should the mind be at rest; if pressed with questions, and excited by conversation requiring the exercise of thought and memory, his food will not benefit him as it might and as it ought to do, and health and spirits will both suffer in consequence. If cheerfulness and repose of mind be necessary for the adult at the dinner-table in order to health, much more is it so for the child.

Although, as a general rule, the age of six years may be named as a good time for beginning lessons, yet it may not suit all cases. With some children the learning of the alphabet, and the putting together of little words, proves an amuse-

ment as agreeable as that of building bricks, and excites their young minds as little. In such cases it is well to encourage so useful a taste; and in order to do so, small blocks of wood or pieces of card-board may be provided, on which may be printed the names of the letters of the alphabet. The capitals may be given first, and, when learned, then the small letters. The lesson (for some assistance will be required) should be very short, and, if possible, given regularly. Five or ten minutes a-day will accomplish much.

When a child fairly begins his education, whether at home or at school, whatever be his age, he should have short hours and few lessons at first, and be gradually accustomed to the full complement. When he does well he should be encouraged by the approbation of his parents and teachers, but in this great wisdom and caution are necessary. Some children are so timid and so distrustful of their own abilities, that great encouragement and a large amount of praise are necessary to urge them on. Others again are so conceited, that a mere sprinkling of praise will quite upset them. We have seen the gaining of a prize by such prove

most injurious, arresting, for the time at least, all farther progress. The wise mother will therefore exercise discretion in this, and suit her treatment to the different dispositions of her children.

If the child has got a little way beyond the alphabet before entering school, it will give him a great advantage, and perhaps save him many tears. The process of learning to read is greatly facilitated by a suitable book. Among the many excellent ones now written, the best that has come under our notice is that entitled "Step by Step," and is admirably suited for the purpose. To communicate to the child any branch of knowledge not only thoroughly but pleasantly, and without tears, we conceive to be a thing of very great consequence, and which ought decidedly to be attempted; and if properly done, with caution and steadiness, step by step, there cannot, we think, be much difficulty; but to land a child abruptly into the midst of difficulties is sure to perplex, distress, and discourage him.

In addition to the elementary part of reading, it would be well if, previous to entering school, the child have made some progress in the art of

speaking. The gift of speech is one of the noblest which has been bestowed upon man, and when cultivated and improved forms the highest of those numerous accomplishments to be found in civilised life; nothing can equal, far less surpass it. Music may charm the ear, painting may delight the eye and the imagination, but eloquence leads captive the whole soul, persuades the mind, and captivates the affections. That such a gift should be early and carefully cultivated is but reasonable. Care should be taken to make the child articulate distinctly, for a defect incurred and a habit contracted at this early stage may last through life. The foolish custom of speaking in a childish, lisping tone to children should be avoided. We should not descend too much to the child's standard, but try to raise him up to ours. This will make him noble and manly. The relating of Scripture narratives to the child has been recommended above; it will greatly induce to ease and readiness of speech, if he be encouraged to give the substance of the story in his own words. It is truly astonishing to see how few young people, not to speak of children, can give a narrative with anything like ease and

elegance. They will hesitate and stammer in telling the most simple occurrence, and very likely after all leave you in the dark as to their meaning. Too little attention is certainly paid to the art of speech. To teach a child to speak with clearness and precision, and not only so, with ease and elegance, is surely an important part of education, and ought not on any account to be neglected. Closely connected with this is the art of reading. To read with proper emphasis and intonation, without a thorough understanding of the thing read, may be thought impossible, and as this is beyond the child's capacity, good reading cannot be expected from him. To some extent this is true. To read well, it is undoubtedly necessary to read with understanding and feeling. Still the child may attain to comparative excellence in this art; for if the book put into his hand be suited to his capacity, he can understand it, and give expression to his feelings by a distinct, emphatic, and graceful mode of reading.

The knowledge of one's own language, of its grammar, of its literature, of every thing connected therewith, comes next in order. It is a wide sub-

ject to mention in connection with childhood, and must be gone warily into, if we would avoid confusion and perplexity. Grammar in olden times presented insuperable difficulties. The definitions were indeed conned with care, and rooted in the memory; but then they conveyed no corresponding idea to the mind, and the pupil was not unfrequently plunged into the depths of syntax before he was acquainted with the shallows of number, gender, and case. To such, it may be supposed, parsing was little more than guess-work. When the question was of case, the chances were that the guess would be right; if "nominative" was wrong, "objective" would be right, for "possessive" was far from being intrusive. Thus have we seen ignorance of things the most essential perpetuated—ignorance which a little attention on the part of the teacher might have discovered and removed. But now "*tout est changé*," and a more rational system of education is pursued. The elementary part is not only learned as to words, but understood as to meaning, before the more difficult is attempted; and with this plan we have seen children of eight and nine quite at home

amid the intricacies of grammar, or even in the depths of syntax. The best, indeed the only way to master any branch of knowledge, is thoroughly to learn the elements, and to go on thereafter step by step. This may be a slow plan, but it is sure, and will be quicker in the end than the opposite method.

Geography is in general a great favourite with children; it is of great use through life; without it history is unintelligible; nay, even a newspaper cannot be understood without its aid. A prominent place should therefore be given to this study; it should not be learned one day and forgotten the next, but learned and revised, and learned again, laid up in the memory, ready to be brought out for daily use. One of the eyes of history, it has been called; chronology has been termed the other. To burden the young mind with many dates is not good; a few important ones, well fixed in the memory, will be sufficient at first, and will serve as landmarks in reading history; they can be increased at pleasure. History is too wide a field to be all occupied,—a selection must therefore be made. After sacred

history, that of our own country demands the first place. But to store up in the memory a list of battles and of facts, of dates and discoveries, is not the only or even the chief use of history. It is calculated to give to the reader a knowledge of character, holding up on the one hand examples to follow, and on the other, beacons to avoid. It teaches (and the young should be taught to observe the lesson) what great results often spring from apparently trifling events; what wide-spread calamities are often caused by the wickedness of a single individual; and, above all, we read in its pages the fulfilment of the prophetic writings, and see the purposes of God in reference to the world unfolding day by day.

English literature follows in natural order. To assist the teacher, many excellent selections have been made. But the mother who has a taste for reading, and who has not relinquished the practice in her married life, will herself prefer to choose passages from her favourite authors; by so doing she will impress on the plastic mind of her child the views and feelings consonant to her own. This may seem to involve too much trouble, but such

an employment, to the true-hearted mother, will, we are persuaded, be far sweeter than those followed by the fashionable votary of pleasure.

Not in the mazes of the giddy dance,
Not in the fairy scenes of mimic woe,
Not at the spell-bound board, whose fatal charm
Steals with the precious hours each home-born thought,
Will she be found. Sweeter to her the joys
That cluster round the quiet domestic hearth,
Sweeter the cradle cares of infancy,
Sweeter the culture of its opening powers,
Sweeter to cast its pure and plastic mind
In virtue's mould ; t' inscribe on its fair page
The lines of wisdom, holiness, and truth ;
T' inform the mind, to cultivate the taste,
To guide the judgment, to refine the heart—
Such is her sweet employ. O, but she casts
Far in the shade the giddy worshipper
At fashion's shrine, poor votary of pleasure,
Who wastes her golden hours in idle show,
And leaves undone all she was born to do.

There are, we doubt not, many among us who, in looking back to their school-days, can testify that memory was almost the only faculty that received any thing like attention,—the understanding was left to shift for itself as best it

might. Others, again, whose school-days have a more recent date, may remember that in their time the tendency was quite in the opposite direction,—judgment every thing, and memory quite in the background. Now we are beginning to see that both of these extremes are bad; another reaction has taken place, rendering it probable that matters will eventually right themselves. Though true to a certain extent that education is a forging of the tools to be used in after life—an acquiring and strengthening of good habits, such as patient attention, persevering industry, and unflinching self-denial, yet it is something more—it includes also a gathering, and storing, and arranging of those materials necessary for building up the edifice of future prosperity. Youth is the season for this; usually there will be but little time for it when the bustle and turmoil of life have commenced. To the young man at the outset of life, a well-stored memory will be found as useful as a cultivated understanding,—indeed the two cannot be disjoined. And to the youthful mother it will be no less advantageous; to her no sort of knowledge comes amiss,—history, science, music, drawing, all

will be useful amid her multifarious duties; and to have a store ready for use at a time when household and family cares render any acquisition difficult if not impossible, will be an advantage which experience will soon teach her to appreciate. In anticipation of this, therefore, let the range of knowledge in which your daughters expatiate be wide and varied. That an educated woman should have some acquaintance with the sciences is but reasonable; that she should know all thoroughly is impossible.

We are far, however, from recommending the plan of a certain mother who, risen herself from low estate, and anxious that her daughter should have the benefit of education, provided a governess for her; and on being asked by that lady what branches she wished her daughter to learn, answered, "Give her a smattering of every thing." Nor that of another, who in nearly similar circumstances answered, "Teach her all the *'ologies.'*" Probably the two answers were substantially the same, and the lover of "*ologies*," too, expected only a "smattering of those sciences." A "smattering" we do not approve of—it is contemptible; and a

little learning of this kind may truly be called a dangerous thing. What we recommend is, to impart the first principles, the general outline of a science; this is a very different thing from "smattering." Whatever be taught, let it be correct as far as it goes, and it will do good. If a few sciences, such as astronomy, geology, botany, chemistry, etc., be selected, and thus partially taught, a further selection may again be made, according to the taste and circumstances of the pupil, and the study of this one carried out to a greater extent.

Notwithstanding our boasted advancement in the business of education, we may with great advantage take a lesson in this matter from other countries. With us too often the solid and substantial part is hastily slurred over, in order to overtake the lighter and more showy department. Our own language is neglected, or but superficially acquired, that a knowledge equally superficial may be attained of those spoken in France or Germany. In these countries we see quite a different system pursued. The solid is cultivated before the showy, and the young are taught to esteem a knowledge of their own tongue prefer-

able to an acquaintance with any other. This, therefore, is the principal part of education, and to accomplish it no labour is spared either on the part of the teacher or pupil. In French schools, the construction of the language—its idioms, its literature—all are taught with exactness and care, and to write it with ease and elegance is esteemed an indispensable part of education, even to those whose circumstances and position in life do not admit of their acquiring foreign languages or attempting lighter accomplishments. And if this is true of France, it is equally so of Germany, where the studies of the young are even more profound, and their acquirements more varied. The veneration cherished by Germans for their own tongue causes it to be taught thoroughly,—a prominent place is given to the study of it above all other things, and thus it is thoroughly acquired, and becomes the basis for the acquirement of other languages. Intercourse with the surrounding nations facilitates the acquisition of an accomplishment for which the continentals seem to have an aptitude; hence we rarely meet with any one in these countries with any pretensions to educa-

tion who cannot speak fluently at least one language besides his own. And in Germany, much time and attention are bestowed on the study of history, literature, and science. The patient industry practised in acquiring a knowledge of the principal events, not only in their own history, but in that of the principal nations from the Creation downwards, is truly surprising. And the intimate acquaintance of even young girls with the great authors, both of ancient and modern times, is equally worthy of note. With regard to science, it is not unusual for the young lady to keep up the conversation pleasantly and creditably with scientific men on their peculiar departments, when circumstances throw them in her way. The severe ordeal to which intending teachers are subjected in order to procure a diploma does much to produce this high state of education, for we cannot be ignorant of the beneficial influence which competent and efficient teachers exert on the rising generation.

Writing being an acquirement that, like reading, is in constant requisition, much attention must be bestowed on it. Every thing depends on the

manner in which the ground-work is laid. A good teacher, therefore, is indispensable from the very beginning. The hand should be in some manner formed before beginning to write school exercises. As the pupil advances, writing will be found a valuable auxiliary in the acquiring of numerous branches of learning. For spelling, punctuation, and composition, it is of great use. Those children with whom the eye is the chief inlet of knowledge seldom spell well till they begin to write. To such it is a good plan to give frequent exercises in dictation, or, what is better, passages from good writers to copy out. This will improve the punctuation as well as the spelling, and contribute also to the formation of a good style of composition. Writing can scarcely be mentioned without calling in its constant companion (in the school-room at least), arithmetic. This is a most important branch. To boys it is indispensable, sharpening their intellect and preparing for mathematics; and in the counting-house it is equally necessary. Indeed, it would be difficult to point out any profession where it is not required. Though not of such paramount

importance to girls, it is highly useful. The housewife will find that quickness and correctness in casting up accounts will save her much time, labour, and perplexity; and if, in addition, she can do so mentally, without the aid of slate or pencil, she will find this acquirement a valuable auxiliary in her shopping expeditions.

It has of late years been the custom, as soon as a boy has decided on his profession, to educate him exclusively for that profession. This is a great improvement on the old system, which condemned every boy to the same routine. The learned languages, however, have by this means fallen into great neglect. This is to be regretted, for it is affirmed by those whose opportunities for knowing are the best, that we have in the ancient classics models for imitation far surpassing all that modern times have produced. But even laying this view aside, the study of the ancient languages facilitates the acquirement of the modern—it forms an admirable training for the mind, and it employs time which might otherwise be spent in listless idleness or in positive mischief. Every one who has had any thing to do with the manage-

ment of children must have felt the difficulty of providing them with employment. How often is the mother perplexed with the doleful and oft-repeated complaint, "O, mamma, I've nothing to do!" And the difficulty reaches beyond the first years of childhood. At this stage the learning of Latin for the boy, and of Music for the girl, is welcomed as an innocent and useful mode of meeting the difficulty.

As to accomplishments, it is an understood thing that every young lady should be a musician. At the proper age, therefore, she is allowed to begin music. So far good; it is right to give her a chance of acquiring an accomplishment so much prized, and the want of which might be regretted afterwards. But if, the attempt being fairly made, an utter want both of ear and taste be discovered, thus precluding the idea of excellence, it will be wiser to give up at once, than to waste time and energy on an unsuccessful pursuit. The attention might be turned in another direction in which success might be expected. It is right however to say that the ear is susceptible of great improvement, and, though deficient, may

be cultivated with hope of success. In pianoforte playing, much depends on the fingers, which at an early age being pliable makes it desirable to begin music early. Some suppose that any one can teach beginners; this is a mistake, for every thing depends on the manner in which the elementary instruction is given: this is the foundation; if it be defective, so will be the superstructure. The hearing of good performers is calculated to improve the taste and style, and at a certain stage of progress does more good than many lessons. Drawing, as a general rule, need not be begun so early as music. If, however, a child evince a decided taste for it, he should not be discouraged; but good copies should be provided for him, simple at first, and proceeding by an easy gradation to those more difficult.

The modern languages usually come under the head of accomplishments. Their use need not be enlarged on. The increased facilities of communication with continental countries which we now have render a knowledge of their languages highly desirable. Where circumstances permit of acquiring them thoroughly, the opportunity should

not be lost; but the benefit of a merely superficial acquaintance is very questionable.

While dwelling much on the necessity of cultivating all the faculties of the child—the memory as well as the mind—and on the advantages resulting from learning nothing that could not be learned *well*, we are far from wishing to inculcate any thing like over-exertion on the part of the youthful mind. Far from it, we would earnestly entreat the teacher to avoid this rock on which so many have split.

Many a mother has been left childless through the vain wish of making a prodigy of her child. Many a promising youth has found an early grave, —or worse, hopeless imbecility,—by his ceaseless efforts to attain literary honours. Do not act thus by your offspring. While urging them to pursue their studies with energy, let these studies be in moderation, and remember that a book is not the only medium of obtaining knowledge. The fields, the mountains, the streams—all teem with instruction. Teach them to draw lessons from every object they see, and encourage in them that love for the beauties of nature which is so natural

to the youthful mind. And while teaching them to admire the beauties of creation, let not the Book of Revelation be forgotten. Teach them to love its precepts and to hope for its promises. But do not make it a book of lessons, still less one of punishment. Teach them to regard it as they would a letter from an absent and beloved parent, and to read it, not as a task, but as a means of becoming acquainted with the mind, and the character, and the purposes of the Divine Author. Let it be studied with affectionate interest and diligent care, and let its utterances decide as to the right and wrong of every thing. Teach them to acknowledge that from its decisions there is no appeal.

In addition to the training of children as relates to their physical, intellectual, and moral being, care should be taken to train them for usefulness in that sphere of life which they are likely to occupy. To daughters especially this remark applies. Every duty which, as the mistress of the house, whether it be in town or country, devolves on the mother, she should teach them to perform. The use of the needle especially must not be neglected, for it is an acquirement which, in

the middling ranks of society at least, cannot be dispensed with. The woman who cannot make a shirt for her husband, or a dress for her baby, is truly to be pitied. If in straitened or even in moderate circumstances, the discomfort to her family will be unspeakable; if opulence even be her lot, she shuts herself out by her incompetency from the pleasure of ministering personally to the comforts of those whom she loves. Even in these days of sewing-machines, there are many little things which can be best done by the simple old-fashioned needle—such as the mending of a glove, or the sewing on of a button; and who can so gracefully perform these offices as the wife, the mother, the sister, or the daughter? And laying aside the useful merely, how much of ornament may be added to the dwelling by the swift and skilful needle-woman, and how many hours may she thus pleasantly fill up which might otherwise be wasted in listless idleness!

Besides the use of the needle, the mother should also instruct her daughters in every thing relating to household economy. Whatever is to be done in the house, they should know how to do it. If

they can actually do it, so much the better; it will give them a great advantage in the management of their own servants, should they ever be placed in the responsible position of mistress of the house. And if in the country or the farm, the outdoor department must not be forgotten. The care of the dairy and the poultry-yard are occupations peculiarly suited to the daughters of the farm-house, and will in general be esteemed by them a pleasant as well as a profitable employment. And to be able to superintend the house, the table, and the kitchen, will be equally advantageous to them, whether their lot be cast in the city or in the country.

And the cottager, too, should not neglect her children, especially should daughters be her care. If she train them to habits of cleanliness, tidiness, and order; if she inspire them with a love of truth and of purity; and withal, if she teach them to do all that is to be done in her homely dwelling—not only to do it, but to do it *well*—she confers a boon on society at large, by supplying respectable girls to fill the important position of domestic servants—a position too often occupied by the ignorant and incompetent.

CHAPTER V.

THE RECIPROCAL DUTIES OF MISTRESS AND SERVANT.

Different Opinions as to Servants—Important Position occupied by Servants—Difficulty of Filling it Aright—Causes of this Difficulty—Careless Servants—Work should be done Well—Servant's Time belongs to the Mistress—Work both Pleasant and Honourable—Anecdote Illustrative of this—Mistresses' Duties to Servants—Anecdote—Sickness—Overbearing Conduct—Scolding—Feelings of Servants to be Consulted—Fault-finding—Respectful Treatment—Mistress must Command her own Temper—Disagreements of Servants—Frequent Changes—Savings Banks—Dignity as well as Kindness necessary—Servants in America—Advantages of a Long Term of Service—Case Illustrative of this.

THE concluding remarks of the preceding chapter naturally lead to the subject which we propose to treat of in this—the vexed subject of domestic servants.

A subject of so much importance to society in general, and on which such various opinions exist,

must be approached with caution and with care. On one hand we are accustomed to hear the most sweeping accusations against this class; on the other, they are pitied and sympathised with—almost raised to the dignity of martyrs. Dishonesty, untruthfulness, unsteadiness, with a host of minor vices, are attributed to them by some; while others deny the charge, and attribute the blame of every thing wrong to the mistress; for, say they, “bad mistresses make bad servants.” That either statement is true we are inclined to deny; we rather believe that the truth lies somewhere between the two extremes, as in general it does, and shall therefore endeavour to strike the proper medium. Servants may be faulty enough, but even the worst are not destitute of good properties; and the really good servant will be good, and continue to be so, however bad the mistress under whom she is placed; and the mistress, however great her influence over her servants, cannot be held responsible for all their faults. If they be good, her training and treatment will make them better; but if a bad one fall to her lot (as it often does to that of the best of mistresses), she cannot surely be blamed.

To change one's own character is no light matter; what then shall we say of the difficulty of changing that of another? Clearly it is the mistress's interest to improve her servant as much as possible, seeing that on her depends so largely not only her own comfort, but that of her entire household. The position occupied by the servant is important and responsible, and that it should be filled by competent and trustworthy persons is greatly to be desired. Any anxiety, then, on the part of the mistress to effect this in her own case need not be wondered at. That there should be any difficulty may be thought strange—that there is, seems undeniable. Of the share of blame attachable to mistresses we shall speak hereafter; at present we would hint at something over which they have no control, and which we conceive lies at the root of the whole matter—the deficient training in early life of those destined to recruit and fill up the ranks of the domestic servant. If individuals of this class were brought up with habits of scrupulous cleanliness, neatness, and tidiness, with a love of truth and purity, and trained to the practice of every household duty, as far as opportunities per-

mitted, the difficulties would be greatly lessened; for with girls so educated mistresses would have something to work upon, and if out of such material they failed to make good servants, they might be deservedly blamed. As mistresses they might be termed bad, and thus verify the truth of the saying, "Bad mistresses make bad servants." But until conditions such as these can be obtained, we must refrain from condemnation; and in the meantime the mistress must be content to take the only materials she can command, and build up with them the structure of household comfort as best she may. Servants in abundance she will find willing to undertake all sorts of work, professing to understand every department of duty. On the strength of some half-dozen years' experience, gained in perhaps double the number of places, they set themselves up as experienced servants, and think themselves entitled to any amount of wages. But a short trial of such is sufficient to prove that their ignorance and incompetency are equal to their conceit; to do as little work as they can, in as slovenly a manner as possible, and to receive in return any amount of liberty and remuneration,

seems to be their only object in entering on a situation. If they can but dawdle on through the term of their engagement, and get at the end a passport to another, it is all they seem to desire. To take an interest in their work, a pleasure—we would almost say a pride—in doing it *well*, is far from their thoughts. That such individuals should ever attain the honourable distinction of being good servants is not to be expected, even though blessed with the best of mistresses. The artist could never succeed in painting a picture worthy of being handed down to posterity if he took no interest in it, nor could the musician delight his audience with melodious sounds if heart and soul did not join in the strain. Neither can the servant attain to excellence in her art if she take no interest therein. True, it may be said, but in these cases genius is necessary. And is it not also needed in the kitchen? If not genius, intellect at least is indispensable. The servant who goes through her work like a machine, will in numerous instances be a hindrance instead of a help, while she who brings intelligence and intellect to bear upon it will be equal to every emergency in

domestic life. Such a one the wise mistress will seek to attach to herself by kindness and consideration, and to make her a permanent part of the establishment. By so doing she will consult both her credit and her comfort. But the ignorant, the indolent, and the incompetent, what lot awaits them? Will one mistress give the character they merit, and will another be satisfied with it? Generally it will be so. There is such a wide-spread feeling of despair as to getting anything like a suitable servant, that if only honesty and steadiness be guaranteed, the mistress is fain in many instances to run her chance as to every thing else.

With regard to large establishments, where a full staff of servants is kept, this remark may not hold good; but with regard to small households, limited to one or two, it will not, we believe, be disputed. Perhaps, next to the root of the evil already mentioned, the great cause may exist in the mistress herself. If ignorant of household details, she can scarcely know when her servant does wrong, or if she does happen to find it out, cannot direct her to do right. Or with a tolerable idea of housework, and of the way to do it, she may yet think

it beneath her to attend to its details. Or, again, possessing both the requisite knowledge of her duty and the inclination to do it, she may yet lack the activity and energy necessary to carry out her wishes. The mistress who practically understands household duties, who is not above superintending their performance, and whose energy and activity are equal to the task, is the exception, while the others are the rule. We could point to a mistress of this stamp, who was fortunate enough to find a servant ready to follow out her wishes and to adopt her plans. This servant she retained for many years, and may yet retain for as many more. One day, while superintending the petty details of the kitchen, details which nevertheless she rightly deemed important, her servant jocularly though respectfully remarked, "But, ma'am, what will you do when I leave? you'll never get a servant to attend to all these trifles." "In that case," answered the mistress, "she will not be long with me." Now, if the incompetent and indolent servant be settled with such a mistress, instead of profiting by the opportunity of learning, as a thorough-going business woman would do, in all

probability she gets restive under the best-meant efforts for her good, frets and fumes, and throws up her place. She can do so with ease, though she may be homeless and penniless, for she knows she will have no difficulty in finding another where her faults will be unchallenged and her slovenliness concealed. Now were all, or even most mistresses determined to have their work, be it little or be it much, done in the best fashion, things would be different. And if a thing is worth doing at all, surely it is worth doing well. On the ground that a servant is honest, some would look over every thing; but surely we do not pay our servants merely for not robbing us. We engage them to do a certain amount of work, and in a prescribed manner. Now, it does not seem the greatest mark of honesty if they fail to do that for which they are engaged. We give them a stipulated remuneration, and in return we claim their time. Now it seems any thing but honest if they habitually waste our time, spending it in idleness or amusement. As the servant's time belongs to the mistress, it is right that it be employed in doing her work, and in doing it *well*. To insist on

this is not only justice, it is kindness—kindness that the right-minded servant will appreciate in after years. And, after all, *work* is not so very disagreeable. There are few things that people in reality prefer to their ordinary avocations. However much the city scribe may long to escape for a season to the fresh green-fields (and truly it is a delightful change), we find that he generally returns with pleasure to his desk, and resumes without regret his accustomed duties. And the business man, whose life-long toil has been sweetened by the hope of rest and retirement, when he reaches the acmé of his ambition, what do we find? Is it not generally a longing desire for lost occupation, a languor that renders life miserable, if it does not actually shorten it? We apprehend that it is usually if not always so. Labour, though originally a punishment, is, in the present arrangement of things, a blessing which we can scarcely over-estimate. There is, in beholding the work of one's hands, or the creations of one's fancy, a pleasure which the indolent and listless cannot appreciate, and it is one open in measure to the servant as to the mistress. That there is any degradation

in the work of the servant, or in any sort of useful labour whatever, we not believe. That such an idea has prevailed extensively, and does still in some measure, we cannot deny; but that it is rapidly passing away before the advancing tide of better feelings, we are firmly persuaded. There is not any occupation, however mean apparently, that can degrade a noble soul; neither is there any office, however exalted, that can elevate to true dignity the mean and ignoble mind.

With reference to this, it may not be inappropriate to mention a circumstance connected with one who, by the force of his own talents and exertions, has reached the highest pinnacle of power attainable in his country. On one occasion, while, in his official capacity, he was delivering his sentiments on a topic about which public opinion was divided, some of his opponents present were mean enough to allude to his origin, and taunted him with having been a tailor. The reproach reached his ears, whether intended for them or not, but he, nowise moved, promptly answered,—“Yes; and when I made coats, I made them well. I never made one that did not fit, and, moreover,

I never disappointed a customer." Whether or not he ever did make coats is doubtful; his answer, however, shows that he was not ashamed of it if he did. And why, then, should the servant be ashamed of her work, or sullenly perform it, as at once destructive to her happiness and derogatory to her dignity? Assuredly, it is far from being either. It will add to her happiness at the time, and raise her in the estimation of her employers. For future duty it will be an excellent preparative, whether in the service of others, or in her own house. To the city artisan or the rural cottager, should she ever be the wife of either, she will be equally valuable, making his home happy and his fireside comfortable. Yes; the tidy, active, careful servant cannot fail to make a good wife; but she who is idle, foolish, and vain, who despises both her position and its duties, to whom tawdry finery is every thing, cannot be expected to make any thing but a useless and improvident wife—worse than useless, indeed, for she will in all probability drive her husband to the tavern, and eventually to the workhouse.

But while the mistress exercises over her

domestics a vigilance that never slumbers, she must never forget that this must be done in the spirit of kindness. While, as a general rule, the servant's time belongs to the mistress, this is not so absolutely. Time for rest, for food, for refreshment must be given, and unless in cases of urgent necessity that time must not be trenched upon. Not only so, recreation is a necessity for all, and the servant must not be deprived of this, for the bow if constantly bent will soon give way.

And then we expect our servants to be neat and tidy. How can they, if we grudge them time for this purpose? Even though a large and liberal allowance be made for all these items, a long day yet remains for the use of the mistress, in which, with cheerfulness and activity, a great amount of work, even from one pair of hands, may be obtained. We say cheerfulness, because we are persuaded that without it little good can be done. Some people carry on their work in a constant state of excitement. They seem almost in a passion, fighting as it were with every body and every thing that comes in their way. "It's an awful fight," you will hear from their lips; but

only from the lips of those who are celebrated for bad management, and violent or peevish temper.

Perhaps mistresses do not sufficiently consider the personal and social condition of their domestics, and may often attribute to sullenness and discontent the depression caused by illness on the one hand, or by family griefs on the other. It is not easy for the servant to maintain cheerfulness in her aspect, if she knows that the hand of sickness or poverty lies heavy on her home, and she powerless to aid the sufferers. The mistress, then, should not too hastily blame the servant, but evince a friendly interest in her affairs, and a kind sympathy in her trials. And she ought not to forget that the parents and relatives of servants have to some extent a claim on their time as well as on their affections. To shut them out from intercourse with these is not only cruel, it is unwise. The exercise of the domestic affections has a humanising and elevating tendency, and by giving our servants the opportunity to which they are entitled of exercising them, we raise them in the scale of excellence, and thus render their services more valuable. With regard to their

acquaintances of the other sex, much discretion is necessary. It is hard to forbid them all such visitors, and yet unlimited liberty is often attended with bad consequences. It is well when the mistress is disposed to take the trouble of exercising an oversight here; we have seen it productive of very salutary consequences. One striking example we may with propriety quote. A certain servant-girl of respectable parentage and high respectability was settled in the family of a lady, where she was treated with great kindness and consideration. It was her practice to go regularly to Sunday evening service in the chapel, which she attended. For a few evenings there sat near her a young man of a very genteel and prepossessing appearance. She remarked nothing particular in his manner, further than the ordinary attention of handing a book or finding a place, until one evening, at the close of the service, he accosted her, and begged permission to accompany her home, and to carry her Bible. This was granted. Ere they parted, he obtained leave to call for her during the week, retaining her Bible as a passport when he returned. The girl very properly made her mis-

tress acquainted with the circumstance, naming the day and hour on which the young man was to call. The lady, having more knowledge of the world than her servant could be expected to have, felt somewhat perplexed and troubled by this announcement. Having a great regard for the girl, as well as a respect for her parents, she felt that it was her duty to interfere in the matter. But how to proceed was the difficulty. She might forbid the meeting indeed, but then she saw that a designing youth might succeed in inducing the girl, open and upright as yet, to meet him in a clandestine manner. Might it not be better to let the meeting take place, and keep a watchful eye over them both afterwards? But then how could she say what might be the result of this course, and if evil ensued, how could she answer to the parents of the girl? Another course was open. She could herself see the young man in the first place, and afterwards be guided by circumstances. Accordingly, having formed her plan, she said to the girl,—“This young man is a total stranger to you; before cultivating his acquaintance, we must know something about him; tell

me the moment he comes ; I will see him, and try to find out if he is worthy to be your friend." The young woman entered heartily into the plan, assured that her mistress had her best interests at heart. At the appointed hour the youth made his appearance, and his arrival being duly notified to the lady of the house, she, with somewhat of trepidation, entered on her task, which, one may believe, was any thing but agreeable. She introduced the subject by saying that the girl whom he came to see being under her protection, she thought it right to know something of the acquaintances she cultivated—thus gently hinting her wish to know about him. The youth understood at once, assented to the propriety of the thing, and frankly gave his name and address. This by some would have been deemed sufficient, and they would have thought any further scrutiny unnecessary. Not so in the present instance. The lady, in addition, expressed a wish to know what was his employment. If this question caused any embarrassment, it was so momentary as not to be observed. After a very short pause, the name of a well-known mercantile firm was mentioned as being that in

which he was employed. The lady did not conceal her intention of calling to see his employers. If the youth was annoyed, he did not suffer it to be perceived, but assured the lady that her inquiries would be gladly and satisfactorily answered, and took his leave in the most polite and agreeable manner. The lady lost no time in prosecuting her plan, and soon learned from the parties whom he had represented to be his employers, that they had not any person of that name, or answering to that description, in their employment. All was a fabrication. The object of the young man may be guessed at, and the gratitude of the girl for her timely deliverance from such a designing hypocrite may well be conceived. It need scarcely be added that he never again showed his face at meeting, or repeated his call. Were mistresses in general to exercise a similar oversight over their domestics, it is impossible to estimate the amount of good that might be done, and of evil that might be avoided.

The idea of a family is not complete if we limit it to children only. It includes every member of the household, every inmate of the dwelling, and over all the mistress should exercise

a watchful superintendence. Her kind care and affectionate interest, if she do her duty, will not be limited to her own offspring, but will extend to servants as well. To them, for the time being, she stands almost in the parental relation, and is in some measure bound to supply to them the place of their natural protectors. And not only will she seek to promote their welfare in the time of health—in the hour of sickness she will also cherish and comfort them. There may be circumstances, indeed, where the servant during illness can be better attended to out of her master's house than in it; and sometimes, as in the case of contagious diseases, the safety of a whole household may as it were compel a removal; yet surely, in ordinary cases, it is most natural and becoming for the servant to be nursed in sickness in the same place where she served in health. Every position in life, we conceive, while it involves duties, also confers privileges. The citizen, for example, has duties which he may not neglect; but he has also privileges, of which injustice and tyranny alone can deprive him. So, while the servant is bound to spend her strength and her

time in fulfilling the duties connected with her place in the family, she is privileged to expect, as a member of that family, care and attention, if laid aside for a time by the hand of sickness. Kindness in such circumstances is not a gratuity, it is a debt—a debt which the mistress is bound to pay. And yet it is almost like money lent out, to be repaid with large and liberal interest. For the right-minded servant will not forget such kindness; but when the scene changes, when sickness visits the nursery and the parlour instead of the kitchen, then will she in all probability repay it an hundredfold.

While in sickness peculiar kindness should be shown to servants, civility and politeness should be manifested to them at all times. There is a pleasant way of telling a servant what you want, and there is an unpleasant way. The one lightens her toils amazingly, the other adds unspeakably to her burdens. Some mistresses give their orders in such an overbearing manner that a high-minded servant is almost tempted to disobey them; indeed, the effect on some refractory spirits would be to drive them to open re-

bellion. This domineering manner does not possess one single advantage. Instead of elevating the mistress, it lowers her in the eyes of every sensible person, and, far from securing obedience, it renders her authority doubtful and precarious. A mild and gentle request will gain attention far more speedily than will the harsh and haughty command. And surely the noble mind will be far from wishing to add to the already sufficiently lengthened catalogue of disagreeables inseparable from a dependent condition ; rather will she seek to lessen them, and to soften the hardships which she cannot remove.

The practice of scolding servants cannot be too much reprobated. If they do not act according to directions, the probability is that these directions have not been understood. The best way is to explain fully what is wanted. If, after all, satisfaction is not obtained, it may be the reason is, not a want of will but of ability—a want which a little practice may supply. Time and patience may bring the requisite perfection, a result which could never be obtained by any amount of scolding.

Some people speak to their servants as if they

did wrong deliberately and on purpose. A little thought might convince any one that this is most unlikely. Clearly, it is the interest of the servant to please her mistress. Indolence and thoughtlessness may conspire to prevent her doing so; but that she should go out of her way, or put herself about in order purposely to offend, is not for a moment to be imagined.

In training children, the mother finds it necessary to adapt her treatment to their various tempers; so must the mistress act in like manner by her servants, varying her treatment according to their several dispositions. The diffident and timid she must encourage; the pert and forward she must repress; the feelings of all she must consult. The docility of children is proverbial, and their submission to the language of reproof equally remarkable; but with the adult it is different. In his case, to instruct is almost to reprove, and to reprove is almost to insult. To this the servant is no exception. Keeping in view this feature of human nature, the wise mistress will husband her reproofs, or even try to do altogether without them, and to guide by other means. If sparingly and

gently used, reproof may produce the effect intended, but if unjustly or too frequently administered, it is productive of the worst consequences. The servant who is subjected to incessant fault-finding will in all probability become quite careless, and will not scruple to affirm that it is needless to try to please—that the better she does, the more she is scolded. Or if she be of a more conscientious type, she will be lost in hopeless bewilderment, afraid to do even what is right, in case it should prove to be wrong.

It will be found a good plan to make a servant, when she enters on her situation, fully acquainted with every thing that is expected from her, and if possible with the manner of doing it. If the mistress can take the trouble of going from one department to another, to initiate her servant, so to speak, in her own system of house-work, it will spare her much trouble and annoyance afterwards. Another plan, and it is not without its advantages, is to point out the servant's work, but to leave her to do it in her own way. If it be a good way, the mistress will not make her change it, though it may differ from her own, for practice and experi-

ence will make it easier of performance; if it be bad, a better way can be pointed out. If, notwithstanding all this care, something should be wrong, it will sometimes be found the best way to let it pass unnoticed at the time, and to take an opportunity afterwards of telling how you want the thing done. In like manner, if you find something is left undone—a grate unbrushed for example, or furniture unpolished—by simply requesting it to be done next day, you spare the feelings of the girl, and in all probability succeed in getting the thing done to your mind. She knows well that your request is tantamount to a command, and would not think of refusing the one any more than of disobeying the other. Your wishes, therefore, are in no danger of being frustrated by this method; they will be carried out equally well, with this difference, that in the one case they will be done willingly, while in the other by constraint. We believe it is the experience of most mistresses, that while a useless drab of a girl will stand unmoved any amount of scolding, a really good servant who understands her work, and who does it, will not bear to be much spoken to. The mistress, then, will consult

her own interest by treating such with respect, and by following the plan suggested above, instead of employing hasty reproof for every little fault or trifling omission. By such means she may succeed in retaining for a lifetime the efficient services of one who, if hastily and unreasonably reproofed, might be tempted to reply in a manner equally hasty and impatient. When this occurs once, there is every probability of its doing so again; the hope of going on comfortably is destroyed, and to part is the only alternative. For to retain a servant who has forgotten her place, whatever be her merits otherwise, is a procedure, to say the least of it, doubtful in the extreme, and the result of which must be to overturn all authority and order in the household. Prevention in this, as in other things, is better than cure; hence the necessity of the mistress maintaining at all times a calm and composed spirit. She who so far forgets herself as to use language to her domestics dictated by passion and impatience, need not wonder if she arouse the same passions in her dependants, and expose herself thus to rudeness and contempt; while she who has perfect com-

mand over herself will have comparatively little trouble in ruling others, and will rarely have occasion to complain of want of respect on the part of her dependants. It is the irritable, the peevish, the passionate, whose complaints of the insolence and disobedience of servants are so incessant and so wearisome. Respectful treatment on the part of the mistress will, in most cases, ensure a similar behaviour in return. Respect begets respect, as kindness begets kindness.

When there are in the house, whether in town or the homestead, more servants than one, the difficulty of managing them is increased, the claims of one often interfering with those of the other. It is not unusual to hear one say, "This is not my work;" another, "It is not mine;" and thus, between one and another, the thing runs a risk of being left undone. We have heard of a lady who had a succession of such servants; nothing daunted, however, she would not give in to their whims, but parted with one and another in rapid succession, at first without any improvement, but eventually the seventh change brought her a staff which restored her household to order

and comfort. To aid in promoting this state of things, it is well to give each servant her own prescribed work; but as in most families this cannot be exactly done, if difficulties frequently occur it may be attributed to the troublesome disposition of one or other of the servants, and the mistress will probably have no other alternative than that of the lady above mentioned. Obliging and agreeable servants who will "work to each other's hand," as the phrase is, are a necessity in a small establishment, if one would have peace and comfort.

The frequent change of servants is unquestionably a cause of great annoyance and inconvenience to the mistress, and she will do well to avoid it if possible; an obstacle to this she will find in the great desire for change manifested by servants in general. But when this desire on the part of the domestic proceeds, as it frequently does, simply from a wish to improve her condition, and to get on in the world, it forms an obstacle by no means insurmountable. Laudable ambition is to be admired and encouraged wherever it is found, and the considerate mistress will not repress it in her

household. The additional sum that would content a servant, and would induce her to forego her determination of going forth to try her fortune elsewhere, is often very trifling, and the mistress will assuredly consult her own interest by cheerfully giving it. The change of servants is accompanied more or less by expense, and the servants whose wages are lowest are not always the cheapest. A careless servant will soon, by breakages and other extravagances, mount up her wages, while a careful and conscientious one will save her employers many a pound. On the score then of economy, as well as of comfort, we counsel the mistress who has been so fortunate as to secure a good servant, by all means to keep her, and to be thankful if, by a slight addition to her wages, she can succeed in doing so. The remuneration of servants should not merely be sufficient to clothe them neatly and comfortably; it should also be such as to allow of a small provision for sickness or any other casualty. Facilities for doing this are to be found everywhere in the shape of Savings Banks, and the mistress should encourage her servants to avail themselves of them.

It has been remarked that, while ladies are so frequently changing their servants, gentlemen rarely do so. In a household deprived of female superintendence, the same servant, or set of servants, will in all likelihood remain until the establishment is broken up by death or otherwise, and the valet may be almost called a fixture at the hall. The reason assigned is, that such servants do not come into such frequent contact with their employer as they do when ladies are at the head of the household. If this be the reason, it affords a hint to mistresses to blend dignity with kindness in their intercourse with their domestics, and never to lose sight of their proper place in the social circle. Kindness can never be misplaced, though it be unappreciated, as the mistress will often find it to be; but familiarity can only be productive of evil. As in a well-ordered house there is a place for every thing, and every thing is best in its place, so is there a place for every person, and it is the wisdom of each to abide in that place. The position of the mistress is to rule, that of the servant to obey. Let her not then for a moment descend from her position, and it is not

likely that the servant will seek to occupy it. The intelligent and sensible servant knows her own place, and will be satisfied with it. It is only the senseless and ignorant one, who esteems herself on a level with her mistress, and who imagines that disrespectful behaviour adds to her dignity. Of course we do not speak of moral excellence; that may be incomparably greater in a servant than in her mistress; but if so, she will best evince it by being contented with the position in which Providence has placed her, and willing to render that respect and submission to her superior in station which reason and Scripture dictate.

Different reasons, however, have been given for the frequent changes among servants; among others, the proverbial fickleness of the female sex has not been forgotten. Certain it is that, when men-servants form an engagement, they generally look upon it as permanent. Any change is injurious to their position and future prospects, and even to their character. The female servant, on the contrary, looks upon her engagement as merely temporary. At furthest, it must terminate on her marriage; rarely indeed does it last even until

then. The extraordinary desire prevalent among this class for frequent changes, is doubtless one great cause of many of the evils which we have noticed. It tends materially to weaken the bond between mistress and servant, and to stem the tide of kindly sympathy which should subsist between them. This state of things has reached such a crisis in some parts of America, that a "girl," or "help," as she must be called, will not engage for more than a week. If she be in want of a new bonnet or a new dress, she will enter on a situation, remain till the sum required is realised, and then take her departure; and in every case her wages must be paid weekly, so that she may be in a position to leave when she pleases. To this condition of things we are, it is to be feared, fast verging. And a thousand pities it is that it should be so. As the "rolling stone gathers no moss," so the servant who is continually moving from one place to another* has little chance of adding to her stores, either of money or of friends. How different she who has spent a long course of years in one family! In addition to her savings, which may be considerable, she gains the

friendship and esteem of master and mistress, children and fellow-servants—friendship which in many cases terminates only with life. We could point to a case where, after a service of thirty years, the servant gained so fully the respect of her employers, that she was placed among the number of their friends; visited as such, not in the kitchen, but in the parlour, and as an honoured guest was entertained at the family table. Nor is the advantage of a long term of service all on the side of the servant; the mistress, in many ways, profits equally by it. She is thereby saved the trouble of teaching each new comer her own plan of conducting household affairs, and escapes also the untold annoyances consequent on frequent changes. And then how pleasant to have the services of one who by long use has attained to all the excellence that can reasonably be expected, and who is in a position to know the tastes of her mistress, and to anticipate her wishes! And how delightful to see from year to year the same individuals in the household, and to feel assured that kindness and affection have not been lost upon them! How different from the feelings

with which one regards the selfish and changeful servant whom no kindness can attach, and who will leave without regret at the call of fancy or caprice! Such conduct has a tendency to dry up the fountain of sympathy in the mistress's bosom. It ought not, however, to do so, for it is always pleasant to look back on kindnesses done, and any excess on this score it is impossible to regret. Kindness is never lost to the giver, though it may be to the receiver. And to see the same faces year after year at the house and the homestead, speaks well for all parties, and carries with it an air of respectability. That such may be more frequently seen is much to be desired, conducive as it is to the comfort and credit both of mistress and servant.

CHAPTER VI

THE SPECIFIC DUTIES OF SERVANTS.

Duties of the General Servant—To Rise Early—To attend to the Kitchen Fire—Daily Cleaning of the Sitting-room—Occasional and Periodical Cleanings—Stair—Lobbies—Arranging the Breakfast Table—Preparing Family Breakfast—Bed-rooms—Washing Breakfast things—Preparation of Dinner—Waiting at Table—Washing of Dinner-dishes—Tea—Preparation for Morning—Supper—Washing-day—Division of Work—Duties of Plain Cook—Duties of House-maid—Importance of Regularity.

IT does not enter into our plan to specify the duties belonging to the respective offices of butler, housekeeper, footman, and the numerous other departments in a large establishment of servants; these can be learned from other quarters. It will be sufficient for our purpose to state only what is expected from the general servant, the plain cook, and the house-maid. The duties of the nurse-maid, as they may easily be gathered from

the earlier portions of this work, may here be passed over. Any detail which we may have omitted can easily be supplied by the mistress herself.

To begin with the general servant. While early rising is necessary for most servants, to the maid-of-all-work it is indispensable. If she would prosper in any degree she must rise early, and however pressing may be the morning's work, she will find it no hindrance, ere she commences it, to dress herself with that neatness and tidiness which self-respect demands. Her first care will be to attend to her kitchen-fire. If kept in all night, as is the practice in many houses, she will break up the coal, called in Scotland a gathering-coal, sweep the hearth, and place the kettle on the fire, so as to be ready when the breakfast-hour arrives. Next, her attention must be given to the family sitting-room. She will first rake out the ashes, making as little dust as possible, and then sweep the grate and hearth very clean. She will then brush up the grate and fender with blacklead, if of cast-iron; if of fine steel, she may first rub them with oil, then with very fine emery powder

till clear and bright, and then polish up with chamois leather. Or she may get from the ironmonger a paste for the purpose, to be put on with a piece of wetted rag, rubbed and polished as above. Having thus prepared the grate, the fire-irons also being cleaned, she may now light the fire. This may be done by means of paper, dry sticks lightly laid across each other, with a few small pieces of coal on the top; a lighted match may then be applied, but live coal must on no account be carried through a house. The marble should then be washed with soap and water, and rubbed dry and bright. When the insides of the fire-place are of tiles, as is now fashionable, merely rubbing them with a wet cloth, and then drying them, will be sufficient. The fire-place being finished, the brass locks may now be brightened up. Nothing can be better for this than the polishing-paste sold by all grocers. A large piece of pasteboard, with a hole large enough to slip over the lock, will be found useful in keeping the paint from being soiled with the paste. Care must be taken to put the clean side of the board next the paint. Lacquered locks require only to be dusted;

damp spoils them. The servant may then brush the window-curtains, and sweep behind the shutters. The carpet may then be swept with a carpet-brush or whisk. The latter, being apt to wear the carpet, should be used only once a week. The dust must not be left in corners, but at once removed with the dust-pan. The windows should then be opened, and the dust allowed to fall.

After this, the wainscot may be rubbed with a duster, not forgetting the skirting-board. The windows may also be dusted. The duster, or broom, must not be applied to pictures or gilded frames. The dust may be removed by means of a feather brush, or blown off with a pair of bellows. Mirrors may be rubbed daily with chamois leather; fly spots removed with a rag, wetted in spirits, then dusted with powder-blue, and rubbed up with soft dusters and wash-leather. The chairs and the rest of the furniture may then be dusted, and every thing put in its proper place. Several of these items may be omitted in the daily cleaning, such as the washing of the marble, brushing the curtains, etc.; but once a week, at least, it will be necessary to proceed as directed. Occasionally it

will be necessary to clean even more thoroughly—to take up carpets, wash floors and paint, dust and clean paper-hangings, and brighten up the furniture. It is the custom in Scotland to have these periodical cleanings twice a year. This suits well, as, in the case of a change of servants, the new one finds every thing in order. But to return to the daily duties of the general servant. Having finished the sitting-room, she may sweep and dust the stairs and inner lobbies, reserving the outer one, the door-step, and the bell, till after breakfast. After laying the breakfast-cloth neatly, and placing on it every thing likely to be required during the process of the meal, she may retire to the kitchen, and, if according to the rule of the house, she may now take her own breakfast. This will, in general, be found the most convenient time to do so. She may then prepare the family breakfast, change her working-apron and cap, and make herself somewhat tidy, to appear when the family assembles for the morning meal. Having placed breakfast on the table, she may go to the bed-rooms, open each window, uncover the beds in order to air them, and finally remove the slops. In order to

give time for the beds to be aired and sweetened, she may again return to the kitchen, make up her fire, and see that all is tidy for her mistress when she comes to give her orders for the day. She may then, breakfast being over, clear the table, taking care to fold the table-cloth smoothly, so that it may be produced again without any ugly folds. A few minutes will suffice to remove the crumbs from the carpet, make up the fire, if in winter, and tidy the room. The outer lobby, the door-step, and bell, may then be attended to, after which the tea-things may be washed, or the bedrooms and other apartments finished. If the latter, proceed as follows:—The bed-clothes must be taken off singly, and laid on two chairs, so as not to touch the ground. The feather-beds, bolsters, and pillows must be well shaken every day, and the mattresses turned at least every week. The curtains and vallances must be brushed with a whisk kept for the purpose, and care must be taken to remove dust from under and behind the beds. The room may then be swept and dusted as directed above, and, finally, the ewers and carafes replenished with clean water. The periodical

cleanings of the bed-rooms and other apartments may be conducted in the same manner as the sitting-room.

In washing the breakfast-things, care must be taken to have the dish-tub clean and free from grease, the water sufficiently warm, and the towels soft and clean. Greasy plates should be put through two waters. The knives should be wiped clean, and put aside till the hour for cleaning them arrives; they will, however, be done in half the time, and with half the labour, if finished at once. The handles must not be put into hot water, as it tends to loosen them.

The preparation of dinner will now occupy the servant's attention. She must look well to the state of her larder, and daily examine the provisions therein contained. A single day will suffice to produce maggots, which, if not removed, will taint the meat, making it both unpleasant and unwholesome. She will see that nothing goes to waste, but that all is used up in due season. After arranging every thing for dinner, as ordered by the mistress, she can brush up her kitchen grate, wash her floor if necessary, scrub her tables, and make

all right for the day. Her dirtiest work being over, she may now dress herself, and thus be in readiness to answer the bell, either for her mistress or for visitors, as the case may be. Probably by this time the lunch-tray may be required in the parlour, or, should there be any little children in the family, the servant may take them out for an hour or two, the mistress in this case having an eye to the cooking department in her absence.

Dinner being ready, it will be the servant's duty to see that the dinner-cloth is laid neatly and in time. To each person she will place a knife, fork, spoon, and napkin; a tumbler, a wine glass, and a chair. When there is soup, a soup-plate should be placed upon the flat plate. If there is a pudding, a dessert-spoon must also be placed to each. The servant must be ready, when dinner is served, to hand every plate in turn as required. To avoid delay she must have an extra plate. In handing bread, water, or wine, she must present it with the left hand, and on the left side of the individual served. She must not put her hand before any one, or reach across the table. Whatever is

presented to any one must be on a waiter. While activity is necessary for a good waiter, quietness is also essential. A noisy, bustling manner of waiting is very disagreeable. Between the courses, the crumbs must be removed into a clean plate by means of a brush. When dinner is over, and every thing removed, the table-cloth must, as in the morning, be carefully folded, so as to leave no rumples.

The dinner dishes being quickly washed in hot, clean water, the knives wiped and cleaned, the dish-covers dried inside previously to being hung up, the sauce-pans washed, and every thing tidied up, the servant may expect a little leisure before time arrives for taking in tea. Then the bedrooms may again be visited, the beds turned, made down, and the basins emptied. The walking-boots may then be collected, cleaned, and taken to their respective places; and when the kettle is filled with clean water, to be ready for breakfast, and paper, sticks, and small coals placed near the fire to be in readiness for the morning, her day's work may be said to be finished. Supper is now but seldom required, but should it be wanted,

she can take in the tray previous to retiring to rest.

In washing-day much management is necessary. The mistress will do well to arrange matters, so that there will be little cooking required on that day. The servant will, on the previous evening, see that every thing likely to be required in the wash-house and laundry is at hand and in good order—such as the washing and rinsing tubs, the clothes-baskets, ropes, pins, props, etc. She will see that the boiling-copper is free from verdigris. The irons, too, she will attend to, for if rusted they will be unfit for use. The ironing-blanket she will not forget, and every thing likely to produce iron moulds she will carefully remove from the laundry. She will then separate the clothes to be washed, putting the white things into a tub. Those that are most soiled she will place in the bottom, and the finest and cleanest on the top. Things that are very dirty should be put into a separate tub. Kitchen towels, and also those used for china and crystal, should always be washed by themselves. A little soda or washing-powder may then be put into a jug, and dissolved in boiling

water, poured into a pitcher of tepid water, in which some boiled soap has been mixed, and the whole poured over the clothes in sufficient quantity to wet them. This will be found greatly to lessen the labour of washing. The wringing-machine will be found a great assistance. The succeeding processes of bleaching, drying, mangling, ironing, and airing, need not here be enlarged on.

The maid-of-all-work, with the duties above detailed, is at once cook, house-maid, table-maid, and laundry-maid. Where, however, there are more servants than one, these offices are divided. The cook usually takes the office of laundry-maid in addition to her own, while the offices of house-maid and table-maid are united in one person. The division of work depends on the arrangement made by the mistress, but the following is that usually agreed on:—

The cook is expected, in addition to the charge of the kitchen-scuttery, wash-house, cooking, etc., to do out the dining-room, lower lobbies, doorstep, and bell. She takes charge of the washing, and in general is responsible for the doing up of the clothes. The cleaning of the table-knives belongs

to her, also the brushing of her master's boots, sometimes also those of her mistress. The brightening up of the dish-covers, tins, in short of all the kitchen furniture, devolves on her. When the family is large, she sometimes takes a bed-room in addition, sometimes even she is maid-of-all-work, while the second servant is entirely occupied with the children.

The duty of the house-maid, where there are only two servants, is to take charge of the drawing-room, parlour, and bed-rooms; also of the stairs, upper lobbies, sometimes of the under also, with the exception of the outer one, which, with the doorstep, is always the work of the cook. She attends to the laying of the cloth and setting the table for every meal, and also waits at table. She has charge of the breakfast-knives, china, crystal, and silver; and is expected to render any personal service the ladies of the house may require. She should rise, do out the parlour or drawing-room, or both, before the family are up; also the stairs and lobbies. When her household work is done, she is expected to dress, and sit down to her needlework, and hold herself in readiness to answer

bells, etc. Should there be children, she may be expected to take charge of them for the remainder of the day. She assists the cook with the washing; in some cases, also, she does up the shirts—generally the ladies' laces and collars. It is also her duty to make any repairs that may be necessary before giving in the things to their respective owners.

We may here remark that, although the constant cleaning of a house may seem to involve much labour, yet in the end it will be found an easier plan than doing it only occasionally; for the same labour which is bestowed on bringing a neglected house into tolerable order, will, if regularly given, keep it in a condition of scrupulous cleanliness—a condition which, while it reflects credit on the servant, at the same time promotes the comfort and cheerfulness of the entire household.

CHAPTER VII.

THE LEGAL RELATIONS BETWEEN MISTRESS AND SERVANT.

How the Relation is Formed—Hiring—Arles—Duties of Servant
—Penalties of Disobedience—Dismissal—Forfeiture of Wages
—Duties of Mistress—Wages—Sickness—Giving Warning—
Giving a Character.

STRICTLY speaking, we ought to say "Master and Servant;" for the lady of the house being only the agent for her husband, he is in reality the responsible person. Nevertheless, since the mistress is virtually the principal in the matter, making the necessary inquiries, and entering into the engagement—the servant, in most cases, looking to her to implement the bargain—we shall continue as heretofore to make use of our accustomed terms, mistress and servant.

The first thing that demands our attention is

the manner in which this relation is created. It is almost unnecessary to state that persons under age, that is, boys under fourteen and girls under twelve, cannot enter into it without the consent of their guardians. Above this age they may form the contract of which we now treat, either verbally or by writing. The former is the mode generally adopted in the hiring of domestic servants, and it is sufficient for all practical purposes. But if the engagement be meant to last more than a year, it must be reduced to writing. Should either party refuse to fulfil the agreement, the burden of proving it rests on the party who seeks to enforce it. This is done by the testimony of witnesses, or the oath of the party refusing. In verbal hiring it is customary to give "arles," which the servant usually imagines necessary to complete the engagement. This is, however, a mistake. "Arles" are in no case essential. Their only value in law is to aid in proving a disputed transaction. If the servant has entered into an agreement of which she repents, the returning of the "arles" she esteems an easy way of getting free from it. This also is a mistake. Her obligation remains

the same, even though her "arles" be returned full forty days from the term.

With regard to the duration of the service, in the absence of any express stipulation, "household or domestic servants in town or country are understood to be hired for six months only, from the next succeeding term of Whitsunday (15th May), or of Martinmas (11th November); and this understanding will take place even although the wages may have been rated at so much a year." "But in some places, through usage, the terms might be regulated by the old style, which makes Whitsunday on the 26th of May, and Martinmas on the 22d of November."

"If the hiring and entry to the service be between terms, the engagement will be understood to continue only till the next term of Whitsunday or Martinmas; but if such entry be within forty days of the term, the engagement will then be understood to be binding to the second Whitsunday or Martinmas thereafter." "Monthly hiring of domestic servants being now common, the presumption of six months' service is more easily done away with by proof to the contrary."

The hiring being settled, the servant is expected to enter on her situation at the specified time, to continue in it till the conclusion of the engagement, and not to leave it in the interval without permission. She must discharge the duties which she engaged to perform, and in order to do so she must bring to the work a fair amount of knowledge, skill, and ability. She must conform to the rules of the house as to hours for meals, for rest, and for recreation. She must render unquestioning obedience to every reasonable command; to insist on a reason is reckoned equivalent to disobedience. She must behave in a respectful manner, avoiding every thing like rudeness and insolence. Not only in her master's house, but out of it, must she conduct herself with decency and propriety. It is incumbent on her to be careful of her mistress's property; wilful negligence being a breach of her engagement. For accidental breakages, however, she cannot be held liable. Not only must she be scrupulously honest herself, but the dishonesty of her fellow-servants she must on no account conceal. If she do so, her own faithfulness may righteously be suspected.

If the servant fail to perform these conditions, she subjects herself to certain penalties. If, for example, she robs her mistress, she may be summarily dismissed, forfeit her wages, past and future, and render herself liable in damages. In like manner, drunkenness, immorality, disobedience, and insolence are offences that warrant dismissal. As a general rule, "righteous dismissal" implies forfeiture of wages. Sometimes, indeed, if the offence be comparatively light, the servant may be entitled to wages during the time she has served, or part thereof; sometimes even to wages during the whole period of the contract—board-wages only being withheld. If she leave the house contrary to command, or even without permission, her mistress is not bound to take her back.

Want of respect is an offence which the servant is apt to look upon as any thing but heinous, yet "there is no offence which the courts of law have been so uniform in holding to be a valid ground of dismissal as insolence." Were it not so, the distinction between master and servant must be either lost, or preserved by acts of personal chastisement which modern law does not permit.

The mistress has also, in common with the servant, duties to fulfil consequent on her engagement. She must receive the servant into her house, provide her with suitable accommodation, food, and other necessities, and pay her the stipulated wages when they become due. This, with a six months' engagement, will be every half-year; with a monthly engagement, every month. She must treat her servant with patience and consideration, avoiding all threatening and severe language. If the mistress be entitled to have her commands obeyed, the servant is entitled to have them given with temper and moderation. If by overbearing and insulting conduct the servant's happiness is destroyed, the law will entitle her to leave the service, to sue for wages, and in some cases for damages. The mistress must indeed keep up her authority, but it must be without violence and undue severity. Although legal writers assert that, in the absence of any express stipulation, there is no limit to the working-hours of the domestic servant, beyond allowing a reasonable time for sleep, and not overtaxing her strength, yet for her own interest, as well as her servant's,

the mistress will do well to keep within the limits of her power in this respect. She will conscientiously employ her servant in the kind of work for which she was engaged, and not impose on her any thing of a lower or degrading character, for she is not bound to act in a capacity inferior to that for which she was hired. Circumstances may indeed occur in which work may be demanded beyond the precise line of agreement, and which the servant would be bound to do. During the temporary illness or absence of a fellow-servant, for instance, she would not be legally justified in refusing to render assistance, or even to perform her duties. The mistress must take care, however, that these deviations be neither great nor often repeated, especially that they involve no danger to the servant, else the law might interfere to protect her.

Although the mistress may dismiss her servant for any of the offences mentioned above, yet she will scarcely be justified in doing so upon the first offence, unless it be of a very aggravated character. It is expected that she try the effect of admonition before proceeding to extremities. For every hasty

answer or trivial act of disobedience she may not dismiss her servant, still less if these offences be followed by a full apology.

The mistress may at any time, and without assigning any reason, dismiss her servant, on the payment of wages and board-wages for the time of the contract.

Should the servant be incapacitated by sickness, the agreement is not thereby laid aside. On the contrary, the servant is entitled to wages and board-wages during the time of her illness, if it be of moderate duration. If the illness be long-continued, a reduction from the wages may be allowed. Should she remain in the house, of course board-wages will not be required.

If the mistress do not desire the services of her servant beyond the time contracted for, she must give her warning forty days before the ensuing term. There is no particular mode of doing this; but whether done directly or indirectly, verbally or by writing, it should be sufficiently plain to certify the servant that her services are no longer required, so that she may be in a position to look out for employment elsewhere. If the mistress

fail to do this, her silence will be taken as a tacit consent to a renewal of the engagement, and she will be liable in wages and board-wages for the ensuing term. The servant, too, who wishes a change must in like manner give notice of her intention, or she will be bound to implement the implied engagement, or become liable in damages. When the engagement is monthly, a month's notice, or sometimes even fourteen days, if it be the custom of the place, will be sufficient.

However long and faithfully the servant may have served, the mistress on her leaving is not legally bound to testify to her skill and uprightness. This, however, she will doubtless consider herself morally bound to do. In the case of a good servant the task is easy, but with one of a different stamp it is otherwise. In every case the character given should be a true one, but not more prejudicial than circumstances render necessary. Acts of petty dishonesty will not entitle the mistress to brand the servant as a thief; neither is she allowed needlessly and unsolicited to publish her infamy. If she do, malice may be inferred, and she thus be rendered liable to be sued for damages.

An honest desire to discharge her duty should actuate her in giving a character. Much latitude is allowed in doing this. It is understood to be a confidential communication, which should not be disclosed. When any thing prejudicial must be stated, the safe plan is to mention the offence without giving it a name which might convey an erroneous impression as to its magnitude. If the character given be false, of course there is room for an action, whether it have been solicited or unsolicited. •

“There is reason to fear that, partly from thoughtless good nature, and partly from a selfish desire to get rid of a bad servant without the annoyance of a dispute, false characters are given in favour of servants very much more frequently than to their prejudice. It is desirable that masters and mistresses should keep in mind that they may render themselves liable in reparation of any damage which can be shown to be the direct result of thus perpetrating on a stranger a wrong which is manifestly within the reach of common law.”

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